

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

## AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LIV.]

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 1901.

No. 9.

### CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	157
Leading Articles:—	
Hongkong: Naval and Military Works	158
The New Territory Report	158
Shanghai and the Tramways Scheme	159
Great Britain and German Trade	159
The United States and the World's Commerce	160
Sir John Carrington's Resignation	160
The Crisis: Telegrams	161
The Late Empress Frederick	161
Hongkong Sanitary Board	161
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	164
Building in Hongkong	165
Fatal Collision in the Harbour	166
The New Territory in 1900	167
Confiscation of Prescriptive Rights in the New Territory	168
Tientsin	169
Northern Notes	169
Foochow	169
Correspondence	169
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	171
The Universal Trading Company, Limited	171
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.	172
Great Eastern & Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	172
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	172
Reviews	173
Supreme Court	175
Interport Rifle Match	177
Hongkong and Port News	177
Commercial	178
Shipping	179

### BIRTHS.

On the 11th August, at Foochow, the wife of G. SIEMSEN, H. G. M.'s Consul, of a son.  
On the 18th August, at Malacca, the wife of TILDEN ELDRIDGE, of a son.  
On the 15th August, at No. 3, Quai de France, Shanghai, the wife of Bernhard BUSCHMANN, of a son.  
On the 16th August, at 210-2 Queen Street, Singapore, the wife of Capt. C. B. MADDOX, barque *Mathilde*, of a daughter.

### MARRIAGES.

On the 7th August, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, by the Rev. W. H. Dunkerley, Colonial Chaplain, REGINALD JOHN BAYARD, eldest son of Reginald B. B. CLAYTON, late of Maryborough, Queensland, to BEATRICE, fifth daughter of the late Charles DICKENS, of Gads Hill, Kent.  
On the 13th August, 1901, at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Right Rev. Bishop Awdry, D.D., assisted by the Rev. Thomas Wright, Rev. WALTER J. SOUTHAM, B.D., of Hongkong, to Miss SARAH E. GOLDSTONE, of Toronto, Canada.

### DEATHS.

On the 20th July, on the s.s. *Sachsen*, at sea, near Suez, ARTHUR SYMONDS COTTAM, dearly beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. COTTAM, aged 14 months.  
On the 20th July, at Kulangsu, Amoy, EDWIN KLIENE, aged 28 years.  
On the 1st August, at Chefoo, MINA BLANCHE, daughter of J. REMUSAT, aged 6½ months.  
On the 10th August, at 28, Seward Road, Shanghai, FLORENCE MAY, second daughter of David TILBURN.  
On the 11th August, at Ningpo, GUSTAV KULTEAU, aged 43 years.  
On the 12th August, suddenly, at Johor Bahru, JAMES HENRY ALLEN, third son of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. M. ALLEN, of the "Perseverance" Estate, Gaylang, Singapore, aged 28 years.  
On the 13th August, at the Shanghai General Hospital, LEO CARL AUGUST VON VAUENDORFF, a native of Zabehitz, Germany, and late of the I. M. Customs, Ningpo, aged 41 years.  
On the 18th August, at "The Bluff," CATHERINE, the wife of Lawrence Gibbs. The funeral will pass the Naval Hospital Gates at 9 a.m. to-day.  
On the 23rd August, at 6.30 a.m., at Macao, MARIA ANNA JOSEFA PEREIRA MARQUES, the beloved wife of Lourenço Marques, aged 76 years.

### Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.  
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

### ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The Canadian mail of the 30th July arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 20th August (21 days); the German mail of the 9th July arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 22nd August (44 days); and the American mail of the 25th July arrived, per P. M. steamer *Peru*, on the 23rd August (29 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Prince Henri d'Orleans has died at Saigon after a serious operation on the liver.

Russia is reported to be equipping an expedition to work coalfields in Szechuen.

Colonel Marchand, of Fashoda notoriety, has been appointed to the command of the French troops in China.

A serious breach has occurred in both banks of the Yellow River, causing immense destruction of property in Shantung, south of Chinanfu.

It is very probable, the *N.-C. Daily News* declares, that the Tariff Revision Commission will sit in Shanghai, where all the necessary information will be readily available.

A Paris despatch of the 10th inst. says:—The *Standard* reports from Tientsin that the British troops have occupied the Summer Palace (Peking). The other Powers have protested.

The *N.-C. Daily News* learns with much pleasure that the interviews between the Viceroy at Nanking and the Consuls, with reference to the conservancy of the Huangpu, were satisfactory, the Viceroy falling in with the principle of the scheme, of whose ultimate execution there is little doubt.

Dr. Morrison telegraphed to the *Times* last week that Sir E. Satow had notified the Chinese plenipotentiaries that unless the authors of the Chuchou massacre were punished forthwith, Britain would have to reconsider the arrangements for the withdrawal of her troops.

2,000 troops from Governor Yuan Shikai arrived west of Peking on the 6th inst., under the command of General Chiang. The presence of these troops is taken as a guarantee of order. In fact the Chinese people are said to appear not to recognise any troops as worth anything except those of Yuan Shikai.

According to our Shanghai morning contemporary, an authoritative communication from Peking, under date the 12th inst., says that it was then practically decided that the tariff of five per cent. *ad valorem* on articles now on the free list (with a few exceptions to be indicated) will go into effect two months after the signing of the final protocol. Cargo shipped as late as ten days after the said signing will be excepted.

Yuen Shikai has ordered five Regiments to start from Tientsin to Peking and the remainder to start on the 6th November, according to Northern native papers.

The three Korean district officials of Quelpart, who showed such anti-Christian tendencies during the recent disturbances there, were examined by the French Chief Justice Cremasier, and will probably, it is said, be sentenced to death.

We received on the 22nd inst. from the Colonial Secretary's Office the information that plague is no longer epidemic in this colony, and that Clean Bills of Health are now issued. The epidemic which has now come to an end, involved 1,619 cases (1,537 Chinese, 52 other Asiatics, 30 Europeans) and 1,548 deaths (1,503 Chinese, 34 other Asiatics, 11 Europeans).

It is stated from Chinese sources in the North that the Paoting railway, which was built by the French, is only used for conveying material to the Legations and passengers and troops, but that the Chinese seldom travel by that railway. The two plenipotentiaries have accordingly, it is said, arranged with the French representative to destroy the railway after the Court's return. This story, if true, disposes of the report that the French intend to keep their garrison, consisting of some 1,300 troops, at Paotingfu as a railway guard in the same way that the Manchurian railway is guarded by the Russians, and the Peking and Shanhaikwan railway by the British.

A special Imperial Rescript was sent from Hsian to Prince Ch'ing for transmission by telegraph to Shanghai when Prince Chun was there last month. The terms of this, which are now made public, are as follows:—Tsai Li, Prince Chun, is now on his first journey to foreign countries. He should therefore be all the more careful in his speech and conduct and attention to his general health. To Chang Yi (Chang Yenmao) is deputed the direction of all ceremonies, etc., requisite on occasions like the present, and he must give his entire attention to the same. After the said mission has been accomplished, Prince Chun must return immediately to China, taking care, however, to observe carefully the customs, peoples, and general condition of all the countries he shall visit whilst abroad, so that he may gain benefit, experience, and instruction from his sojourn in other countries.

The following official intimation has been sent to the various high provincial authorities by the advisers of the Empress Dowager at Hsian concerning the future movements of the Court:—"As already announced to your Excellency, their Imperial Majesties the Empress Dowager and Emperor have decided to change the date of their departure from Hsian from the 1st of September to the 6th of October next. When the Court arrives in Honan province it will branc' off for Kaifeng, the provincial capital, where the 67th birthday anniversary of the Empress Dowager—10th day of the 11th moon: Wednesday, 20th November, 1901—is to be celebrated before the Court proceeds further on towards Peking. In fact their Imperial Majesties will not leave Kaifeng for Peking until after the 22nd of December next—12th day of the 11th moon. Special Imperial instructions have been sent to Sung Kuei (Manchu), Governor of Honan, with reference thereto."



## HONGKONG: NAVAL AND MILITARY WORKS.

(Daily Press, 21st August.)

The Naval and Military Works Bills have, **REUTER** tells us, been read a third time in the House of Commons, which means that practically they have been passed. The Bills provide for the expenditure of twelve million pounds sterling, six million of which are for naval and six for military works. These include a breakwater for Malta, increased coaling facilities for the Fleet, and the erection and re-construction of barracks. The Royal Naval Dockyard at Hongkong, for the enlargement of which part of the money will also be used, is, we are told by Captain **PRETMAN**, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, to be about thirty-four-and-a-half acres in extent, leaving space for the erection of an additional large dock, if required, and for providing storage accommodation for one hundred thousand tons of coal. It will thus be apparent that not only are very large additions to be made to the Royal Naval Dockyard, which will create Hongkong into a great Naval Arsenal, but that extensive additions are contemplated to the barrack accommodation for the garrison, at present very limited. It is true that the purchase of the Mount Austin Barracks three years ago and the erection of several blocks on Gun Club Hill, Kowloon, relieved the pressure for a time, but since the reinforcement of the Garrison by three regiments of Indian Infantry there has been much crowding and discomfort. Some of the troops have been housed in matsheds, some under canvas, and others in hired buildings or in temporary quarters. Thus the barracks of the Hongkong Regiment have, in the absence in North China of the bulk of the battalion, been placed at the disposal of one of the Indian regiments, and detachments from another have been lodged in the Sanatorium at Magazine Gap. But on the return of the Hongkong Regiment the pressure will again become acute. Presumably two, if not all three, of the regiments will remain or be replaced. The 3rd Madras Light Infantry are, it is true, ordered back to India in three weeks' time, but they are, we hear, to be replaced by one of the regiments now at Shanghai. The Garrison of Hongkong, which had, up to the Boxer outbreak in North China and the attempted massacre of the Foreign Ministers, been more or less nominal, or at least only maintained at the point sufficient to man meagrely the principal fortifications, will in future have to be kept on something like a level with ordinary requirements, if not on a basis of affording assistance to Shanghai or Peking. The great distance from any base of supplies and the possibilities of local difficulties arising out of European complications, have at last, by dint of actual events, convinced the British War Office of the importance of regarding Hongkong not merely as a coaling station but as a place of arms from which, if necessary, assistance can be afforded to British trade or those engaged in it in the ports of China. The Colony will, therefore, in future be garrisoned more in accordance with its strategic importance, though probably there may be differences of opinion between the War Office and the public as to the number of troops that will be required to make the garrison effective. Still it is much to have the position of the Colony recognised; the next step gained may be its efficient fortification. At present the entrances to the harbour of Victoria are sufficiently protected, but the southern coast of the island of Hongkong is still totally unprotected. Possibly the next vote made

will be for this purpose; we will hope so, at any rate.

It is satisfactory to find that the Royal Naval Dockyard is to be formed on so large and comprehensive a scale as stated by Mr. **PRETMAN**. It is, of course, much to be regretted, from the civilian point of view at least, that the Admiralty found it inadvisable or impracticable—we have yet to learn which—to remove the establishment bodily across to the other side of the harbour. It is true that Mr. **CHATER**'s scheme was a little late; some portion of the reclamation in front of the Naval Yard had been accomplished and the alterations to many of the buildings in it had been carried out, but compensation might and could easily have been made for the outlay thus incurred by the Government and ratepayers of Hongkong out of the sale of the ground that could have been made. On their side, the Admiralty would have gained much in convenience and in elbow-room. They have in any case to maintain an establishment on the Kowloon side, and, large as is the area it is now proposed to reclaim between the Naval Yard and the man-of-war anchorage, it is small compared with what it was proposed to give them as an equivalent at Kowloon. However, we discussed this question from the naval point of view last month. The decision has been made, and the Colony will have to suffer the consequences. These are varied and more than sufficiently trying. In the first place the prospect opened up, by the exchange, of a broad continuous *Praya*, will now have to be definitely abandoned, and we must resign ourselves, as best we may, to the thought of the sea-face of this great port being permanently cut in twain in the very centre of the city, thereby impeding development and greatly hampering the traffic. The residents on the upper levels in the middle of Victoria will also have to get accustomed to the manifold disturbing noises necessarily arising from a busy dockyard, which they will not find conducive to slumber in the early hours of the morning, when the most refreshing sleep is usually obtained in the summer. The citizens who have their places of business in the quarter lying between the Naval Yard and Blake Pier will find the smoke from the Dockyard chimneys no slight nuisance, and the offices adjoining will have to endure all the din that inevitably issues from such an establishment. Nor is this all. The large reclamation in progress will, notwithstanding the assurances of Naval experts, be certain to cause considerable silting up along the foreshore from Messrs. **BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE**'s offices to Pottinger Street wharf, and much dredging will no doubt have to be done to counteract this. All these evils must ensue, either because the Lords of the Admiralty consider the Kowloon site too exposed to an enemy's fire, or else because they do not like to defer the work and start afresh. If the latter is the reason, it may be remarked that they have never shown any tendency to place value on time before; it is to be regretted that they should have manifested to a sudden appreciation of it at a moment when a little more delay meant so much for Hongkong. If the former reason is that which actuates them, then, as we have said before, we can but bow to naval demands, though it be with a heavy heart.

The following telegram appears in the *Jiji*:—Peking, August 8th.—Russia intends to occupy Manchuria permanently, and will build Headquarters Offices and barracks for two Divisions, one at some place near the coast of the Yellow Sea and another somewhere between Harbin and Moukden. The surveys have been made.

## THE NEW TERRITORY REPORT.

(Daily Press, 24th August.)

The unavoidably belated Report of the Hon. J. H. **STEWART LOCKHART**, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, printed in the *Government Gazette* of the 17th inst., and in part reproduced in these columns on Tuesday, is a distinctly instructive compilation. The document, under its headings of Land, Titles, Land Court, Survey, Botanical and Afforestation Department, Public Works, Education, Medical Department, Harbour Office, Police, Crime, Legislation, Revenue and Expenditure, and Staff, is worthy of minute and detailed attention. Taken in conjunction with the thirteen accompanying appendices, from which through considerations of space we were unable to quote on Tuesday, it furnishes us with a complete history of what has been, and is being, done in our Extension across the harbour. The highly important Memorandum by Mr. H. H. J. **GOMPERTZ**, Member of the Land Court, upon Land Tenure and Titles in the New Territory, gives us a vivid picture of a few out of the many tight knots and hopeless tangles which the Land Court, in the course of its arduous duties, will have to loosen and unravel. The numerous conflicting claims to practically every superficial foot of land, particularly those nearest the shore, in the narrow ribbon of leased territory facing Hongkong, and extending from Lyceum in the East, right out to Laichikok, behind Stonecutter's, in the West, are specimens of the ravenous land-hunger which has suddenly seized our newest subjects. Of the nine lesser islands lying between Hongkong and Lantau, 880 claims have been lodged in respect of five—in his Report Mr. **LOCKHART** says four, an obvious slip, as reference to paragraph 13 of Appendix 1A will show: while to the other four—Mr. **LOCKHART** says five—no claims have been sent in, and they, by virtue of Section 15 of the Ordinance, revert to the Crown. The preposterous, unsupported claim of a branch of the **TANG** family of Kam Tin in San On, to the whole of Tsing I Island, currently named Chung Hue, is a striking sample of the absolutely baseless claims to land ownership on a large scale which have given the Land Court endless trouble and worry. Happily, and apparently owing to internal clan squabbles as to distribution of the spoil, a deed dated 1788 shows conclusively that the living descendants of **TANG KU-NAM** only own 86.2 *mow* of land: and assuming, as is done in Mr. **LOCKHART**'s Report to the Colonial Office, dated Oct. 8th, 1898, that 6.61 *mow* = 1 English acre, their total owning is about 5.5 English acres. When it is stated that the whole island of Tsing I contains considerably over a thousand acres of well-timbered and well-watered land, hill and dale, is easily accessible at all seasons, and contains sites suitable for plague and other burial places without interfering with present residential areas—the island is inhabited by some four hundred Hakkas—the impudent pretensions of the **TANGS** are wholesomely apparent. Mr. **GOMPERTZ** is too considerate in proposing that, as an act of grace, an extra acre, or thereabouts, should be granted them for the purpose of erecting a brick or lime-kiln in the north-east part of the island where, some ten years ago, a kiln was worked. In the utter absence of documentary evidence, the **TANGS**, presumptively, were trespassers on that bit of land; and bearing in mind the dishonest nature of their recent claim, they should be given strict justice, and nothing more—title to collect annually the commuted value of 40 piculs of rice, minus the amount paid by



the tenants as Crown Rent. Mr. GOMPERTZ's lucid explanations of the origin of the anomalies of land tenure, as well as of the various methods by which land has been originally acquired in the New Territory, are logical, conclusive and convincing. His suggestions and recommendations are plainly the outcome of mature thought, following on long and patient research, and are therefore entitled to the fullest consideration. The principal Police Stations have been equipped with Maxim guns: an admirable precaution, when we consider the prevalent turbulent character of the adjoining part of the district of San On. It is doubtless owing to this salutary fact, and to the temporary reinforcement of the frontier stations and of Taipo that, in spite of ill-suppressed chronic disorder, occasionally flaming into open rebellion over the boundary, no attempt has so far been made to disturb the peace in the New Territory. In Appendix 3, we learn of some of the difficulties encountered in the course of the Cadastral Survey: on the hill slopes, and in the glens and narrower valleys, as many as 120 and even more fields to the acre were met with. In Appendix 4, dealing with the work of the Public Works Department, we are informed that the total distance to Taipo now turns out to be 18 miles: not 16, as Mr. LOCKHART has it in his Report. The least gratifying feature is the Governmental Balance Sheet—Revenue and Expenditure. Here we see that the reasonably optimistic views entertained by Mr. LOCKHART in his Report to Downing Street, in October of 1898, have not been fulfilled. Then, he anticipated no difficulty in raising, from the outset, an annual revenue big enough to meet the cost of administration: at the same time, he estimated the expenditure at a lakh and a quarter of dollars. Let us compare this forecast with actual facts. The expenditure for 1900 was \$238,361.66, exclusive of Police Establishment expenses, which, as obtained from the Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent, were \$102,292.48: this gives a total gross expenditure of very nearly \$350,000. The revenue, derived from all sources, during the same period, amounted to \$17,530.75. Such a financial result after the expenditure already of so much time and labour on the New Territory is an unsatisfactory item in the Report.

### SHANGHAI AND THE TRAMWAY SCHEME.

(Daily Press, 22nd August.)

To judge from the anticipations in the leading Shanghai papers last week, the result of the voting on the proposed tramway scheme at the special Ratepayers' Meeting must come as a rather severe blow to the Shanghai public. It is true that of the ratepayers actually present 92 voted for the scheme and only 57 against, but the demand for a poll enabled the proxy-holders to turn the scale the other way, and the scheme was rejected. The idea of this tramway originated with Mr. ZIEGLER, a German by birth, but long resident in London and now a Shanghai ratepayer. What he actually proposed at the meeting was an experimental line from Garden Bridge on the Bund to St. George's Farm, to be followed by other lines should the experiment prove a success. The *North-China Daily News*, writing on the 12th instant, said:—"The great point of Mr. ZIEGLER's scheme as now formulated is that it involves little or no expense to the community. It is a practical experiment which he proposes to make at his own cost, and as its financial success must depend for some time on Chinese

support, that is, until foreigners have begun to move in considerable numbers into the suburbs, he has another reason for choosing streets which are more exclusively used by Chinese. His scheme will give the community a practical insight into the value of tramways, which it is undoubtedly well that we should have before we dispose of the rights in our 'leading thoroughfares.' The fact of the French Municipal Council proposing to inaugurate shortly a tramway system in their Settlement at Shanghai, and of Hongkong and Tientsin both having decided on tramways was expected, as no doubt it did, to spur the Shanghai ratepayers on to make a further advance in municipal progress. Shanghai, like our own city, has been suffering severely from excessive rents and lack of building land, and the cry for more rapid communication between the centre and the boundaries, enabling an extension of the latter, has been growing stronger and stronger. The following lines from the above-quoted article in the *North-China Daily News* might, with a trifling alteration, have appeared in a Hongkong paper at any date for many years:—"It is hardly necessary to point out to those who are suffering from the high rents which have become inevitable with the rapidly increasing value of land within the old limits of the Settlements, what an advantage it will be to establish cheap and rapid communication with the suburbs, where houses can be built that can be let at reasonable rents. The time occupied in transit and the cost have heretofore prevented to a great extent the erection of middle-class dwellings in 'our eastern and western suburbs.' Hitherto in Shanghai, as our contemporary points out, there has been no improvement in the means of communication in the 'Model Settlement' since the introduction of the jinrickisha. It has of course to be proved, as the *Mercury* says, that the Chinese will prefer to ride a certain distance in fifteen minutes rather than in two hours on a wheelbarrow. But this can hardly be doubted, provided that the fares are sufficiently low. The promoters of our own tramway scheme have expressed themselves confidently on the point, and all existing evidence is in their favour. When the first prejudice to an innovation has been overcome, the Chinese have always shown themselves appreciative of quick transit facilities.

The Shanghai newspapers wrote hopefully last week of the prospects of the scheme at the Ratepayers' Meeting. The *North-China Daily News* said:—"What we want is a practical demonstration that will stop the constant objections of the typical conservative Shanghai man, 'We're not going to have the Bund and the Bubbling Well Road spoilt by tramways, and all the other streets are too narrow.' This must be answered by laying tramways in the streets and working them, and we hope to see the ratepayers deciding at the meeting next Monday that the experiment shall be made." The *Mercury* speaks with more confidence still:—"It is for the construction of this experimental line alone that the ratepayers will be asked to give their consent, and we have no doubt that the majority who vote will cast it in favour of a tramway which is now so very much needed and which is so important to the future development of these Settlements." This confidence was justified by the voting of those ratepayers actually present at the meeting. But the absentee landlord was not to be defeated so easily. The proxy-holders nearly quadrupled the vote against the scheme, while the vote in its favour was little more than doubled, an adverse minority

of 35 being converted into a majority of 32. We shall receive shortly from Shanghai some details of the speeches and voting, which may throw further light on the motives actuating the opponents of the scheme. It may be assumed, however, that property-holders in the centre of the town used all their strength against a proposal which threatened to reduce their rents by relieving overcrowding in the Settlement. The triumph, such as it is, will almost certainly be found to be the triumph of vested interests—ever the most serious incubus haunting the life of a Far Eastern settlement, whether it be a Crown Colony or a Municipality. Hongkong has not escaped from this obsession, as we have had occasion to point out recently. Fortunately, however, it has been to the honour and interest alike of some of our most prominent residents to foster the growth and improvement of the colony, which under purely official guidance would have stagnated entirely. Shanghai has had a far better name for progressive tendencies than has Hongkong. In one particular at last we seem to have shown to better advantage.

### GREAT BRITAIN AND GERMAN TRADE.

(Daily Press, 23rd August.)

Our German contemporary in Shanghai complains of what it calls the action of British Colonies, and especially of Singapore, designed to suppress the rising power of German shipping, and professes to be reminded by this action of a saying of SPINOZA: "*Unusquisque tantum juris habet quantum potenti valet*"—i.e., practically, Might is Right. The writer in the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* scorns the idea that the rapid growth of German commerce and shipping in the Far East can be hindered by British efforts, but he is still morbidly suspicious that the actions of various colonial authorities to protect themselves are all aimed at undermining Germany's commercial greatness. He says (we paraphrase his remarks): The British do not to-day, as they did formerly, merely whisper among themselves their anxiety about German commercial growth, but give loud utterance to it before the world. They are no longer satisfied with empty protests, but take such precautions as from their own point of view appear justifiable. The result is very unpleasant to non-British shippers in East Asiatic waters. Nor can it be denied that Britain, possessing all the important points between Suez and Japan, is in a position to put many difficulties in the way of other nations' shipping, and especially Germany's. But she has ceased to be almighty on the sea, continues the German writer, and she will go on losing power. And so on. The whole article is designed to show that Great Britain, afraid of Germany's rapid growth, is determined to wreck it in whatever way it is possible. Of course, no serious refutation of the arguments is required. The conclusion is absurd. At the same time, so exaggerated has been the language of those English writers who wail about their country's commercial decadence that it is not to be wondered at that foreigners should mistake the state of affairs. The line of policy which the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* accuses our colonial authorities of taking is precisely that which the German Press, at home and abroad, strenuously advocates for the German colonies. However, patriotism and consistency are difficult to combine, and the German writer, excited by recent legislation of the Straits Settlements Executive Council, may be pardoned for his distorted view of



affairs. When the *Berliner Tageblatt*, discussing this same legislation, can advance the argument that it is because the coolies prefer the humaner German captains and crews, and therefore flocked to German ships, that the Straits Executive Council issued its recent order, it can occasion no surprise to read such articles as the one which we have glanced at above. Such articles, nevertheless, may do harm in embittering national feeling, on which ground their publication is to be regretted.

## THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD'S COMMERCE.

(Daily Press, 19th August)

The Philadelphia Commercial Museum has published a small pamphlet entitled *The World's Commerce and United States' Share of It*, which, though mainly statistical, is of great interest at the present time when the fear of American trade competition has developed into a panic in certain commercial circles. The pamphlet summarises the actual figures on which the evidence of the States' commercial advance is based and indulges but little in anything beyond the barest comment. Starting with a note upon the vast change in the relations of the States with the rest of the world since 1890, when the country was largely dependent on Europe, and more especially on Great Britain, for money to develop its resources, it alludes to the Baring collapse of 1890, the panic of 1893, with long and widespread distress throughout the States, causing general economy, the introduction by manufacturers of new and cheaper methods of production, and ultimately an accumulation of savings. Then came the good crops in the States at a time of drought in India and Australia, which led to the increasing needs of Europe having to be satisfied from America, with the consequence that \$2,000,000,000,000 in four years represented the excess of exports over imports in the States, whose manufacturers now found that they could sell their products at prices enabling them to compete successfully in the world's markets. They have entered those markets to stay, and since 1890 have increased the exports of manufactured goods more, in actual value, than Great Britain, France, and Germany combined. "The percentage of this increase" the pamphlet says, "is greater than that of any of these nations in a quarter of a century." The following table of export of manufactured goods is appended, the figures being in millions of dollars:—

Countries.	1890	1900	Increase.	Increase per cent.
United States ...	151	432	281	186 per cent.
United Kingdom...	1119	1144	25	2
Germany .....	529	678	149	28
France .....	40	365	—25	—61

The panic-mongers who fear so much the advance of American commerce should take to heart the warning which the pamphlet proceeds to give that the success of the United States in foreign trade cannot be achieved by the destruction of that of their rivals. The States are largely dependent on the purchasing ability of their best customer, the United Kingdom. "From 1880 to 1900 'the United States sold to the United Kingdom a little over nine billion dollars' worth of goods, or about one-half of all 'our exports; while during the same time 'the United States bought from the United Kingdom only about three and a half billion dollars' worth, leaving a balance of 'five billion six hundred million dollars. 'During the same period the imports from 'other countries exceeded in value the goods 'sold to them by over two billion dollars.

"This balance was paid out of the amount 'paid to us by England, and left over three 'and a half billions to pay freight, insurance, and other charges, and to accumulate 'a balance in our favour in the money 'markets of the world.' The disposition of this surplus presents a difficult problem. At present a large part of it is used to pay freights, insurance, interest on securities in Europe, and travelling expenses of Americans in foreign countries. All of it cannot be invested in English, German, and other foreign loans and investments. It is therefore probable, the writer of the document before us thinks, that large amounts will be invested in new industries and railroads, and in developing the new possessions. "These new industries will increase the 'surplus for export and compel the United 'States to take a prominent share in the 'world's politics and trade, whether it 'desires to do so or not. A vigorous 'foreign trade will enable the American 'people to continue the prosperity with 'which they have been blessed in the past 'four years. . . . By means of machinery, 'the great manufacturing nations have 'been able to produce much more than they 'can consume, and have been forced to find 'outlets for their surplus products in less 'developed countries. This explains the 'efforts which European nations are making 'to secure control of large regions of 'country in Asia and Africa. The 'United States, by possession of the 'Philippines, is in a position to secure a 'fair share of the trade of near-lying 'countries on the continent of Asia." But, as the writer says later on, nothing but persistent pushing can secure foreign trade, which does not necessarily follow the flag, for (he instances) in the Philippines, England and Germany have secured a larger share of the trade than the United States.

Into the exact details of the exports from the United States into the various parts of the world we cannot here follow the writer, for to do so would involve the quotation of endless figures. He concludes from them that the United States have still to gain their fair share of the world's imports in many lines, and that this can only be done by the "persistent pushing" mentioned above. With regard to the fear expressed in Europe that the States will not only secure a larger share of trade in the other grand divisions of the world, but will also make inroads upon the domestic trade of European countries themselves, the writer laughs at the talk of an international alliance against the States to keep American products out of Europe, and says: "Such efforts are 'unlikely to cause anxiety if considered in 'the light of recent commercial history. 'Individual nations in the past have tried 'to do this, and it has generally resulted in 'a steady increase of American exports to 'the countries themselves, and a decrease 'of American imports from these same 'countries." The author and compiler of this instructive little pamphlet has evidently no dread of the power of the European nations to damage the United States by any such action as anti-American extremists on the Continent have urged.

During the first half of the present year 1,910,165 tons of coal were shipped from Moji, of which 203,881 tons were sent to Hongkong, 241,504 to Shanghai, 47,535 to Singapore, 102,302 to Manila. Bunkers for foreign-going ships took 269,514, and Japan ports and bunkers for local steamers 622,684 tons. The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha shipped 423,135 out of the total of 1,910,165 tons, including 73,303 tons to Hongkong, 62,803 to Shanghai, and 49,456 to Singapore.

## SIR JOHN CARRINGTON'S RESIGNATION.

(Daily Press, 17th August.)

As we announced to our readers yesterday, the news has been received in Hongkong that His Honour Sir JOHN WORRELL CARRINGTON, K.B., C.M.G., D.O.L., LL.D., M.A., has been obliged through ill-health to send in his resignation of the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of this colony, a post which he has held since 1896. The news has been received with feelings of universal regret. It would have been impossible for any man to have administered the duties of his office in a manner which could win more general esteem than has fallen to the lot of Sir JOHN CARRINGTON. For ability, and uprightness he has made himself an honourable name among all the races with whom his work has brought him in contact. He has, moreover, done the colony an inestimable service in the compilation of the new Code of Civil Procedure, which was issued shortly before his departure for Japan. Away from his official sphere of action, he has won for himself a reputation which will not quickly perish, whether in his capacity of Commandant of the local Hongkong Corps or in his general social aspects. It is perhaps no small token of the affection felt for him that he was known everywhere simply as "Sir John." His departure will be a great loss to the colony. At the same time, the strain of hard work had evidently begun to tell severely on him of late, and no one can grudge his retirement from a long and distinguished career. Born in 1847, Sir JOHN CARRINGTON was educated at Lodge School and Codrington College, Barbados, and Lincoln College, Oxford, the University for which he cherishes still, as is well known, the warmest affection. He was a barrister at Lincoln's Inn in 1872; returned to the West Indies and became Member of the Barbados House of Assembly in 1874-78 and again in 1881; Solicitor-General, 1878; Acting Attorney-General, 1880-81; President of the Education Board; Chief Justice of St. Lucia and Tobago, 1883-85; Acting Chief Justice of Grenada, 1886; Attorney-General of British Guiana, 1888; and Chief Justice of Hongkong, in succession to Sir FIELDING CLARKE, in 1896. Sir JOHN CARRINGTON took his seat in Court for the first time on the 18th May of that year, being welcomed by the Hon. W. MERRIOT GOODMAN, Attorney-General, in a speech expressing the high anticipations entertained of his coming administration of justice here. We can only conclude by saying that all such anticipations have been more than fulfilled.

[We believe that, though Sir John Carrington actually sent in his resignation, he will be induced to reconsider it so far as to wait the few remaining months before his pension falls due. It is probable, however, that he will be on sick leave during the remainder of his term of office.]

A correspondent to the *Singapore Free Press*, signing himself T.E.E., writes on the subject of the proposed tramway scheme for Singapore. In the course of his letter he says:—"In Hongkong there is no public body to safeguard public rights from the pressure of the Colonial Office, and as the rickshaws are limited to a small number (700, I think) the syndicate may have dropped in for a good thing there." As a matter of fact the actual number of rickshaws at present licensed here is:—675 in Victoria, 23 at Quarry Bay, and 14 at Kowloon. T.E.E. proposes as a model for Singapore the Durban Municipality which controls the rickshaws and the tramways, and the latter are being built because the rickshaws are too expensive and insufficient to deal with the traffic."



## THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, 16th August, 8.12 p.m.

Reports come from Tientsin of heavy rains having seriously damaged Manchurian and Northern railways.

The reported Russian reverses during the troubles in Manchuria have been discredited.

The Empress Dowager censured Li Hung-chang for his apparent apathy and arrogance, and Chang Lui for his inadequate appreciation of the gravity of the present situation.

The report sent to the Empress Dowager by Yang Yu, the Chinese Minister to Russia, re a reported secret agreement between England and Russia not to interfere with each other on their respective sides of the Great Wall, has greatly alarmed her.

## THE LATE EMPRESS FREDERICK.

## HONGKONG'S CONDOLENCES.

We have been furnished with the following copy of the telegram from His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State, sent on the 13th August:—

Resolution passed by Legislative Council today: That the members of the Legislative Council of Hongkong desire humbly to express to His Majesty the King and His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor the sorrow with which they have received the intelligence of the death of the Dowager Empress Frederick of Germany and Princess Royal of England, and their deep sympathy with Their Majesties in their bereavement.

BLAKE.

The following is a copy of telegram received in reply from the Secretary of State on 15th August:—

"His Majesty the King thanks Legislative Council for message of sympathy.

"CHAMBERLAIN."

## HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 22nd inst. in the Board Room. The President (Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were present the Vice-President (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

## THE MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Board, with an alteration in connection with the motion then brought forward by Mr. Osborne in relation to markets, latrines and urinals, were approved.

## RE-APPOINTMENT OF MR. OSBORNE.

The re-appointment of Mr. Osborne as a member of the Board was intimated to the meeting.

The PRESIDENT—We are all very pleased to see that Mr. Osborne is going to continue as a member of the Board for another period. I hope we will benefit by his advice in sanitary matters.

## TRAPPING DRAINS.

A reply was received from Government relative to trapping the inlets to the storm-water drains.

The PRESIDENT—This paper, as you know, states that the Governor has decided to postpone this matter until the advice of the sanitary expert who is expected from home can be obtained, as it is quite possible that he may recommend some radical alteration in the present system, by which foul waters and storm-waters are conducted to the sewers and storm-water drains respectively.

## THE DEPTH OF BUILDINGS.

Correspondence relative to the depth of buildings was laid on the table.

In a letter, dated 19th June, to the Government, Dr. Clark mentioned that he had received a plan showing two new dwelling-houses, each of which had one living room of a depth of 83ft. 5in. and of a width of 13ft. He had endorsed

the plan to the effect that, in his opinion, the buildings, when erected, would be unfit for human habitation. It seemed more desirable, however, that the law should not permit the erection of such uninhabitable buildings, and it was not at all certain that the magistrate, who alone could decide the question of habitability, would be prepared to condemn a new building erected in accordance with all the existing sanitary and building laws of the colony.

The recommendations of the Sanitary Improvements Committee, whose report was submitted at a meeting of the Board on the 11th ult. and has already been published in full, are to the following effect in relation to the depth of buildings:—

"1. That the Government be advised to enact: That every domestic building hereafter erected of a greater depth than forty feet (as measured in accordance with sub-section E of section 56 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1900), shall be provided by the owner with a glazed skylight in the roof of a total area of not less than 1/25th of the total floor area of such domestic building, and every upper floor shall be provided with a well-hole corresponding in position and area to such skylight.

"Provided that no such provision shall be required in the case of domestic buildings which are, in the opinion of the Sanitary Board, adequately lit by means of windows opening into a side street or other open space of a width of not less than 15ft., in addition to being lit from the front."

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Atkinson: "It remains for the Board, I presume, to consider if they agree to adopt the report of the Sanitary Improvements Committee. Personally I am doubtful re their recommendation as to 'skylight.' Is it possible to construct these so that they do not leak? A damp condition of a house would be detrimental, and it is not much light you would get from one in weather like this. What would be the cost of constructing such a skylight with a space right down below it?"

Dr. Clark: "The recommendations of the Sanitary Improvements Committee have already been adopted by the Board, who should therefore refer the Government to those recommendations."

Mr. May: "What we are asked to do is apparently to suggest how the width of a street should be measured. We made a recommendation about this recently in connection with the height of dwellings and verandahs."

Dr. CLARK—I don't see how the Board can do any better than to refer the Government to the recommendations of the Sanitary Improvements Committee. I move that the Board beg to refer the Government to the report of the Committee, and that the Government be informed that the Board is still of the opinion that the measures they recommended will meet the case.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

## STATEMENT FURNISHED TO MR. OSBORNE.

The statement furnished in reply to Mr. Osborne's question relative to additional markets, latrines and urinals was laid on the table.

Mr. Osborne minuted: "This is not what I asked for, but only a resume."

The PRESIDENT—The minute by Mr. Osborne, I understand, refers to the condensed statement which was laid on the table at last meeting. I may say, in connection with that statement, that Mr. Osborne in his question asks for the production of a statement showing what recommendations the Board and its officers have made during the past ten years in respect of markets, latrines, and urinals. The recommendations, I take it, are those made to Government, because, of course, the recommendations the Board has made are to Government, and I would just say that no officer of this Board is authorised to make any recommendation whatever to Government. Therefore, in this statement none of those recommendations—or suggestions, as you might more properly term them—have been noted. The reports of officers of the Board are included if they have received endorsement by the Board.

Mr. OSBORNE—May I ask whether that statement includes recommendations made by officers of the Board in their annual reports not specifically recommended to Government,

when the report has been adopted and merely forwarded?

The PRESIDENT—In one or two cases the Board, in forwarding a report to the Government, has made specific mention of some item contained in such report. In a case like that, where the Board makes specific allusion to any item, it is included here; otherwise it is not.

Mr. OSBORNE—Do I understand that Mr. Ladd's frequent recommendations are not included there—those recommendations not specifically mentioned by the Board, where the whole report has been merely adopted?

The PRESIDENT—They are not included here unless the Board made some specific mention of them in forwarding the report to Government.

Mr. MAY—I think it would be as well to point out that till this year no annual report was critically examined by the Board. This year, on Mr. Osborne's recommendation, a sub-committee was formed to go through them, and they found that some of the recommendations contained in the reports would not hold water.

The discussion then dropped.

## CLOSING OF A WELL.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the closing of the well at the back of the market at Hunghom.

## COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE FOR A WIDOW.

It was intimated that H. E. the Governor had approved the recommendation of the Board of a compassionate allowance of \$300 to Mrs. Cruz, whose husband was a foreman in the Sanitary Department, and who, with his four children, died of plague.

## SANITARY WORKS AND THE 1902 ESTIMATES.

A reply from Government was laid on the table relative to the provision for certain sanitary works in the 1902 Estimates.

The reply stated that, with regard to the market for Kowloon Point, a vote had already been taken for the preliminary expenditure on account of this work, and a further sum would be inserted in the Estimates for next year. As regards B (ten urinals) and C (four latrines), provision would be made in the 1902 Estimates. As to D (refuse-destructor), the report in this matter would reach the Board in due course. E (quarters for the sanitary inspectors) would have to be further reported on. F (a large open shed for the sale of cooked Chinese food) was still under consideration, and the Board is requested to give particulars as to size without further delay.

Dr. Clark minuted: "With reference to F, the size, as to which the Government asks for information, depends entirely on the amount of space available. Will the Hon. D. P. W. say what land is available for the purpose?"

The PRESIDENT—There is absolutely no space available, as it is all monopolised by the market. I propose that a reply to that effect be sent to the Government.

Dr. CLARK seconded, and the proposal was agreed to unanimously.

## ERECTION OF A LATRINE.

A letter from the Director of Public Works notifying the erection of a latrine at Yau-mat was laid on the table.

## MR. OSBORNE ON THE MEMORANDUM TO

## THE PETITION.

The following remarks by Mr. Osborne on the Memorandum to the Petition, dated 25th June, were laid on the table, with the covering letter from Mr. Osborne and the reply from the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary:—

Hongkong, 14th August, 1901.

SIR,—I have the honour to direct your attention to the fact that in the "Memorandum on Petition, dated 25th June, 1901," the following passage having reference to the Sanitary Board occurs:—

"The statement in par. 5 that it is not in any way responsible for the overcrowded and insanitary condition of Hongkong. . . . is not correct."

In the concluding paragraph of the same Memorandum are the following remarks:—

"In conclusion, we cannot refrain from expressing our regret that the Petition as drafted is calculated to mislead."

The inference to be drawn from the first quotation is that the Sanitary Board is responsible for the overcrowded and insanitary condition of Hongkong, and the inference to be drawn from the second quotation is that the



Petition was drafted so carelessly as to seriously misrepresent facts.

Considering the high position which the authors of the Memorandum hold in the Government service, the authorities at home after reading it could hardly come to any other conclusion than that the Petitioners were mistaken and that their representations were based upon want of knowledge, and as the Memorandum itself contains statements which in my opinion are calculated to mislead, in justice to the Sanitary Board I beg to ask His Excellency the Governor's perusal of the enclosed statement as well as of the Returns concerning additional markets, latrines and urinals, which at my request was submitted to the Sanitary Board on 7th August last.

I have also the honour to ask that the same publicity may be given to both as has been given to the Memorandum on Petition.

The Extracts and other particulars which I have given were obtained from the Secretary of the Sanitary Board with the sanction of its President.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

EDWARD OSBORNE,

Member of the Sanitary Board.

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G.,  
Colonial Secretary,  
Hongkong.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 4.

It was Mr. Chadwick who first suggested the separate system of drainage in part, and finally endorsed its adoption for the whole city. The supply of water is sufficient for the purposes of that system and the necessary flushing tanks have been provided.

#### REMARKS.

Mr. Osbert Chadwick in his Report dated 1882 wrote: "Artificial flushing should therefore be provided. It will not be necessary to use water from the waterworks for this purpose. The perennial flow of the nullahs will in most cases suffice."

On May 30th, 1901, it was resolved "That the Board recommend the Government to utilise all the fresh water which now runs to waste in the trained and untrained nullahs of the City by building dams and forming tanks for the sewers and storm-water drains."

This resolution was seconded by the Acting Director of Public Works, one of the signatories of the Memorandum, and carried unanimously.

That the necessary number of flushing tanks have not been provided is evidenced by the foul smells emanating from the sewers on the lower levels.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 4.

Dr. Clark agreed to the restriction as to the height of buildings made to apply only to houses erected on land sold after the passing of the Ordinance (34 of 1899).

#### REMARKS.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board held on September 14th, 1899, it was resolved:—

"That a letter be written to the Government to the effect that the Board advocated the reduction in the height of buildings, on the ground that the best preventive of plague is the admission of light and air into dwellings, but they are unable to prove by statistics that the inclusion of Section 6 (a) will effectually check the spread of the disease. To avoid any further delay, however, the Board in these circumstances are prepared to acquiesce in an amendment of Sec. 6 (a) to read as follows:—'No building erected on land acquired from the Crown after the passing of this Ordinance shall exceed in height one and a half times the width of the street upon which such building fronts.'"

It is clear from the above that the Board were forced into acquiescence in order to avoid further delay in the matter; the Board's original recommendation having been made in June, 1898.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 6.

The statement quoted in par. 9, that Mr. Chadwick had recommended that the ground surfaces of all dwellings should be concreted and that such concreting was not required till 1894, is inaccurate.

#### REMARKS.

Par. 171 of Mr. Chadwick's report: "Earthen floors should be prohibited. All should at least be paved with tiles, bedded in concrete." Until

1894 the law allowed floors to be covered with tiles laid on earth, the concreting being apparently optional.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 6.

In 1894 the financial condition of the Colony appeared to the Unofficial Members to be in such an unsatisfactory state that they asked for and obtained a Committee with a view to effecting retrenchments. It is difficult, therefore, to see how an Improvement Fund could have been created except by a further loan or by increased taxation.

#### REMARKS.

The Sanitary Board did not ask for an Improvement Fund till 1st March, 1900, when the finances of the Colony were in a flourishing condition. One of the signatories of the Memorandum was himself a prime mover in this question of a Trust Fund.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 7.

"With regard to par. 10, it may be noted that there was no necessity to offer a premium for the best design of Chinese house, because several designs have been gratuitously offered."

#### REMARKS.

So far as the Members of the Sanitary Board and the public are aware, these gratuitous designs were not offered until nineteen months after the Board had recommended the offer of a premium. The recommendation was made 26th October, 1899, and Mr. Turner's design was submitted to the Board on 30th May, 1901.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 8.

The complaints referred to (viz., hawking) were made by an individual member of the Sanitary Board and on investigation were found, as far as any actual nuisance was concerned, to be exaggerated.

#### REMARKS.

The hawking nuisance was reported on by Messrs. McKie and Osborne, the Quarterly Inspection Committee, in their report dated 20th December, 1900, and their remarks were supported by a majority of the Board.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 9.

"And the only remedy (referring to the fouling of the drains) appears to be . . . the more effective control of the hawking of vegetables, sugar cane and fruit in the streets."

#### REMARKS.

In par. 8 of the Memorandum it is stated that the complaints as to hawking in the streets, on investigation, were found, as far as any actual nuisance was concerned, to be exaggerated.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 10.

Regarding the latrine at Shok Tong-tsi, it was not an entirely new latrine . . . that was recommended at the end of 1896, but an enlargement of the already existing latrine at that spot.

#### REMARKS.

Extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Sanitary Board held on November 5th, 1896:—

"That a letter be addressed to the Colonial Secretary requesting that a latrine of twenty seats be erected at as early a date as practicable, in the immediate vicinity of the existing dilapidated structure adjoining the site of the old Slaughter-House."

It was therefore an entirely new latrine which was asked for.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 10.

The Sanitary Board asked the Government in December, 1896, to put up a latrine at this spot (Kowloon Point) and in January, 1897, addressed the Wharf and Godown Company on the subject of providing increased latrine accommodation for their employees. The question of erecting a Government latrine was postponed pending the passing of the Ordinance referred to; since the passing of the Ordinance the Sanitary Board has not made any formal application under the Ordinance for a site in this locality to be set aside for a latrine, perhaps because the existence of a privately owned latrine rendered the necessity less urgent.

#### REMARKS.

The Sanitary Board decided to address the Government and the Godown Company at the same meeting, namely, on December 17th, 1896. This shows that the Sanitary Board did not contemplate that the Wharf and Godown Company's latrine should be used by the large number of coolies travelling by the Ferry, now amounting to over 10,000 per day, nor for the growing Chinese population of Kowloon Point.

#### MEMORANDUM, PAR. 10.

"As to the want of urinal accommodation referred to in par. 12, steps have been taken this year to further increase the accommodation."

#### REMARKS.

The further increase cannot be said to have come too soon, as there are only four one-man urinals in the City, for a male population of about 140,000.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 13.

It is worth noting that from the 6th May, 1899, up to the 9th August, 1900, no fewer than 31 houses have been closed either in whole or in part as unfit for human habitation at the instance of the Medical Officer of Health under the powers referred to, but that that officer had not previously taken any action in this direction till reminded of these powers by H.E. the Governor.

#### REMARKS.

The minutes of the Sanitary Board show that the Medical Officer of Health reported houses to the Sanitary Board as unfit for human habitation on the following dates:—27th February, 1896, 10th September, 1896, 30th September, 1897, 10th March, 1898, 3rd November, 1898, 2nd March, 1899. I learn, moreover, that during the year 1900, 4,149 nuisance notices were served by the Board, in respect to insanitary properties.

#### MEMORANDUM PAR. 14.

"Nevertheless we deem it right to point out that under Ordinance No. 9 of 1887, Section 14, Dr. Ayres had very considerable powers which we cannot find any record of his having ever utilised."

#### REMARKS.

In the annual report for 1881 of the Colonial Surgeon will be found records of prosecutions in respect of the insanitary condition of premises, showing 252 prosecutions and 222 convictions. The Report for 1882 shows 162 prosecutions and 142 convictions.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 16.

In spite of the many workers and of the most drastic remedies, the epidemic, though undoubtedly confined within narrow limits, was not got under one day sooner than it ceased of its own accord in the neighbouring City of Canton.

#### REMARKS.

Neither the Government nor the Sanitary Board nor the authors of the Memorandum could possibly have had any reliable particulars from Canton concerning plague, the only alleged source of information being the coffin shops. To be able to confine an epidemic of plague within any limits at all supports Dr. Lowson's statement quoted in par. 16 of the Memorandum.

#### MEMORANDUM—PAR. 16.

Regarding the alleged insufficiency of Sanitary Staff, it was in consequence of a recommendation made in 1893 by a Select Committee of the Sanitary Board based upon a report by Dr. Clark himself that the number of Inspectors was fixed at 20.

Mr. Osborne, a member of the Sanitary Board then and now, must have been also satisfied that an Inspector's visit at least once in two months to each floor of his district was reasonably sufficient.

#### REMARKS.

Extract from Mr. Osborne's speech at the Sanitary Board meeting held on 28th September, 1899:—

"From the figures given me by the Medical Officer of Health it would appear that there are about 2,000 floors in each district and these floors are supposed to be visited once every two months—taking into account the number of floors to be visited and the time at the disposal of the Inspectors, it works out according to my figures to something like 2½ minutes per floor. That is to say, the Inspector in these awful summer months can only visit each floor once every two months and cannot spend more than 2½ minutes in each. That is a physical impossibility. I defy the strongest man to do it, not only in 2½ minutes, but in four times that period. I argued from that that there were not sufficient men to do the work. On these grounds I considered there ought to be more men."

"From the figures which I worked out I make out that we should require a great many more men, but of course I know it is no use asking



too much, and therefore I agree with the report."

Copy of Mr. Osborne's minute dated 29.8 August, 1899, on Report referred to in the Memorandum. "According to Medical Officer of Health there are roughly 2,000 floors in each district and these floors are supposed to be visited during the afternoon once every two months."

"The Inspector's afternoon consists of two hours (2 to 4 p.m.) and his working days number 252, as follows:—

Days in year .....	365
Deduct 52 Sundays	
" 52 Saturdays	113
9 Holidays	
	252

252 by 2=504 hours, 2,000 floors visited 6 times a year=12,000 visits, occupying 504 hours gives less than 2½ minutes per visit. The figures need no comment. I consider each floor should be visited once a month, and that 15 minutes is not too much to allow to each visit. This would keep three Inspectors constantly employed all day thus."

Mr. OSBORNE—I don't propose to say anything on this subject, because my only object in writing the memorandum was to elucidate the truth to some extent, in the hope that the commissioner, if he ever arrives, will give the same attention to that memorandum and to the reply to it as has been given to the other papers. With regard to the Principal Civil Medical Officer's remarks, I did not say I was forced into signing it. What I say is this: In nearly all the discussions at this Board, in public or in private, I certainly—and I believe all the other members of the Board—have been influenced to a very great extent by the position which the Government was to take up in regard to the recommendation of the Board. It was on these lines and for that reason I signed that report. I signed it and agreed that the number of inspectors, should be fixed at twenty, because I felt sure that if we asked what we really wanted we would get none at all.

The PRESIDENT—As to the Government simply ignoring the recommendations of the Board, I would just point out that it is very easy to give advice, but it is a difficult thing sometimes to carry that advice out. We all know how ready the doctors are to order a man to Japan for the benefit of his health, but the man himself does not quite see how he is going to do it. The Board, of course, has been very ready with recommendations of all sorts, and the difficulty has been to find the means to carry out these recommendations. The statement that has been prepared with regard to the petition, I think, shows amply that all the funds available are expended upon works, a great many of them of a sanitary nature. I propose to lay on the table some comments on Mr. Osborne's statements in the paper which is before us.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
17th August, 1901.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of 14th instant, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to inform you that your observations on the Memorandum concerning the Sanitary Condition of Hongkong should have been addressed to the Sanitary Board, who will no doubt through their Secretary bring under the notice of the Government any statements to which the Board may take exception.

2.—Should any statements have appeared in the correspondence referring to you individually, His Excellency will be prepared to consider and inquire into any representation which you may wish to make in the matter.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Sd.) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
Colonial Secretary.

E. OSBORNE, Esq.

The following statement of comments, signed by the President and Mr. May, was then laid on the table:—

#### COMMENT ON COVERING LETTER.

- (1) The inference drawn does not logically flow from the premises. The true inference to be drawn is that the Board is in a measure responsible, namely, in so far as it has been entrusted with the exercise of certain powers.
- (2) The Petition does misrepresent facts, e.g.,

what it states that "for nineteen years the condition of Hongkong has remained practically as insanitary as when Mr. Chadwick came and reported on it (Par. 7), and asserts that so far as anything practically resulting, the Sanitary Commission of 1881 might never have been appointed."

(initialed) W.C. and F.H.M.

#### COMMENTS ON MR. OSBORNE'S REMARKS.

Par. 4.—The plans for the sewerage of the City drawn by Mr. Cooper were submitted to and approved of by Mr. Chadwick. Those plans provided for flushing tanks. If they were not adequate, it is inconceivable that Mr. Chadwick would have approved them. Whether or not subsequent experience has shown that additional flushing tanks are necessary is *nilhil ad rem*.

Par. 4.—One of the statements in the Petition to which exception was taken in the Memorandum is that "Ordinance 34 of 1899 was enacted in an emasculated form, the more drastic remedies recommended by the Sanitary Board with a view to the betterment of the sanitary condition of the colony having been deleted therefrom."

That is hardly an accurate description of what really occurred.

The Bill was referred to the Board, and the Board "acquiesced" in certain modifications.

Par. 6.—The statement in the Petition was that concreting of floors was not required till 1894. The remark now made practically admits that concreting was provided for.

Par. 6.—In the first place the complaint in the Petition is that Mr. Chadwick's (and not the Board's) recommendation for an improvement fund has not been carried out.

In the second place the writer does not attempt to show that even in 1900 was the Government in a financial position to endow such a fund.

Par. 7.—The remark does not disprove the accuracy of the statement in the Memorandum.

Par. 8.—The report that it was thought, from the wording of the paragraph, was particularly referred to was one from Major Brown, R.A.M.C., which was forwarded to Government by the Board and found to be exaggerated.

Par. 9.—It is not claimed in the Memorandum that nuisances caused by hawkers do not exist.

Par. 10.—Nevertheless, the inference to be drawn from the statement in the Petition is that no latrine previously existed on the spot.

Par. 10.—In the Memorandum it is not stated that the Board did so contemplate.

An explanation of the Board's not making application for a latrine at the spot is merely hazarded.

Par. 10.—That is so.

Par. 23.—It is not a question of what houses were reported as unfit for human habitation, but of what action was taken on the reports.

The records at the Magistracy show that, with the exception of one single ground floor closed in 1898, no premises were closed by order of the Magistrate till May, 1899.

That 4,149 nuisance notices in respect of insanitary properties were served is not in any sense pertinent to the question.

Par. 14.—What is stated in the Memorandum is the fact.

The prosecutions referred to by Mr. Osborne were instituted under Ordinance 14 of 1845 for nuisances, and not for overcrowding and the insanitary condition aimed at in Ordinances 9 of 1867 and 7 of 1883, and the fines inflicted, as the records at the Magistracy will show, varied from 10 cents to a few dollars.

Par. 16.—One of the signatories of the Memorandum visited Canton with Dr. Lowson when the plague had ceased here in 1894, for the express purpose of ascertaining whether the plague had ceased there. A visit to the City and the Canton Plague Hospital showed that it had.

Par. 16.—The fact remains that Mr. Osborne signed the report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the adequacy of the Sanitary Staff.

The signatories of that report (Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Clark, and Mr. Osborne) stated: "We also recommend the appointment of three additional first class inspectors and two additional second class inspectors of nuisances, whose services will be mainly employed in connection

with overcrowding, house-drainage and food adulterations."

In spite of Mr. Osborne's elaborate calculations, there is not a word in the report about any extra inspectors for ordinary daily inspection duty.

(Signed) W. CHATHAM.  
F. H. MAY.

#### RATS AND INFECTION.

The results of interesting experiments by Dr. Clark with the *virus contagieux* of Professor Danysz were laid on the table. They were in the form of a report, and dealt with experiments which had been made on healthy rats fed with the virus. The report concluded:—"It will be seen that the period which may elapse between the date of infection varies from two days to twelve or thirteen days, and that not infrequently healthy rats will not touch the dead bodies of the infected ones."

"The proposal is to feed healthy rats on the virus and then to let them loose again, in the hope that they will die of the infection and that then other rats will feed on their dead bodies and will thus become themselves infected."

"The objections to the proposal are that the rats may die in private dwellings and thus create a nuisance, and in any case no check can be kept upon the experiment after once the rats are set free."

"I am not therefore inclined to recommend the adoption of the proposal by the Government on any extensive scale, but if any owners of godown property desire to experiment in the matter, I have now a sufficient number of infected rats to be able to supply them with one or two for the purpose."

"It is very doubtful if rats can infect human beings in any way, as long as they are kept out of the dwelling-houses, and I think that the efforts both of the Government and of the householders would be best directed to securing this end by keeping all drains and drain-fittings in perfect order, maintaining an impervious covering to all earth surfaces within the dwellings by the removal (as far as may be possible) of all ceilings, wooden skirting-boards and lath-and-plaster partitions, and by avoiding the accumulation of garbage within or in the neighbourhood of the dwellings."

The President: "Please circulate. Personally I am not in favour of experiments of this nature, unless under thorough control, until their success has been fully demonstrated."

Dr. Atkinson minuted: "The experience of Dr. Arthur Kransz does not lead him to the conclusion that has been drawn by Danysz, that the bacillus can be used as a means for the wholesale extermination of rats. Were any symptoms of Danysz's disease seen in the dead rats?"

Mr. Brewin: "Where are these experiments being conducted?"

#### ALLEGED OVERCROWDING.

The report of the Quarterly Inspecting Committee for the second quarter of 1901 having been forwarded to Government, a minute was attached by the Colonial Secretary suggesting that Dr. Clark should be asked to report what steps had been taken to deal with the matters therein referred to, including the alleged overcrowding in Sheung Fung Lane.

Dr. Clark replied as follows:—

"B. There is no power to prevent the obstruction of private streets by merchandise."

"C. A summons has been applied for against the baker for allowing his men to sleep in a room in which food is stored."

"E. The chimney has been repaired and the hole in the wall closed."

"K. I attach a return showing that the houses in this lane can legally accommodate 314 persons, and that 312½ were actually found sleeping there. Some of the houses were slightly overcrowded and notices were served, with the result shown in the last column of the return."

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Atkinson: "This return demonstrates that on the 13th July last there were 184 persons occupying room for 149. In other words, there was 23 per cent. overcrowding."

Dr. Clark: "That is so, taking only the floors which had occupants in excess of the legal number."

Mr. OSBORNE—May I ask what inspector visited Sheung Fung Lane—whether it was the inspector of the district or someone else?



**Dr. CLARK**—The prosecuting inspector—not the inspector of the district.

The papers were laid on the table.

#### FOUNDINGS DYING IN THE CONVENTS.

A reply from Bishop Piazzoli was laid on the table relative to the Board's recommendation as to the removal of the bodies of children dying in the convents within one month of admission for *post-mortem* examination. The reply stated that the recommendation was too wide, and that Bishop Piazzoli was unable to assent to it.

**Dr. Atkinson**: "Will the Registrar-General please state who signs or certifies as to the cause of death of the foundlings at the French Convent?"

The **PRESIDENT**—With respect to that query, one of the Sisters signs the books brought up every day from the French Convent with particulars of deaths.

**Dr. CLARK**—I think we ought to adhere to our previous decision that the bodies of Chinese infants particularly who die in the French and Italian Convents should be medically examined. I think we ought to send an inspector every day with instructions to remove such infants as have died for a *post-mortem* examination, and arrangements could be made afterwards for their proper interment. I move that the Government be asked to insist that the bodies of Chinese foundling infants be removed from the Convents by officers of the Sanitary Board and taken to the public mortuary for medical examination, unless the cause of death is certified in each case by a registered practitioner, in accordance with the terms of the Ordinance.

The motion was carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC LATRINES.

The plans of two public latrines were submitted—one of 46 seats on the west side of Gillies Avenue, Hung Hom, and the other of 40 seats at the intersection of Market and Kennedy Streets, Yaumati.

The plans were approved.

#### URINALS.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the erection of two urinals—one near the Canton and Macao Steamboat Wharf, and one near the old Nam Pak Hong Pier.

#### LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended 19th August was laid on the table.

#### DR. PEARSE AND SUMMARY PROSECUTIONS.

The following minute by Dr. Clark was read: "I have the honour to request that Dr. W. W. Pearse should be deputed by the Board to institute summary proceedings before a magistrate against any person contravening the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance of 1901, or of any bye-laws made thereunder, as provided for in Sections 27 and 91 of the said Ordinance."

**Dr. Atkinson** minuted: "I approve."

The **PRESIDENT**—With regard to this matter, will it be in order to recommend it before Dr. Pearse's appointment is gazetted?

**Dr. CLARK**—I think so.

The **PRESIDENT**, seconded by Mr. MAY, then moved accordingly, and the motion was unanimously carried.

#### PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR.

**Mr. OSBORNE**—I should like to move that Government be asked to give a reply as soon as possible to the Board's recommendations in regard to inserting new bye-laws as to the cleansing of the town which we sent up some time ago. It is now about a month since we emerged from the last plague scare, and I have no doubt we shall settle down to our old sweet ways for the next six months. I think we should lose no time, and should also ask the Government to lose no time, in giving us the powers we ask for. If the Government approves of our suggestion as to the limewashing of the town, we should make a start as soon as possible and not wait till the beginning of next year, when the plague re-appears. I move that the Government be asked to obtain approval as soon as possible of the proposed new bye-laws made by the Board on 11th July for the preventing of epidemic, endemic, or contagious disease.

**Mr. MAY** seconded, and the motion was carried.

#### PLANS.

An application was read from Messrs. Leigh & Orange, architects, for the Board's approval of a plan for the rebuilding of houses on

Inland Lot 107. Two plans, marked A and B, were attached, and the Board was asked to select one.

**Dr. Clark** minuted: "I consider that plan B, which Messrs. Leigh & Orange wish to have approved, is the better design, and as it complies with the law as to the amount of open space in the road, I do not see how the Board can fail to accept it. I think, however, the Board might go further, and tell Messrs. L. & O. that they consider it preferable to plan A; we may then perhaps get more houses built after this design."

**Dr. Atkinson** minuted: "What does the President advise? I see that he has not minuted the paper. His opinion as A.D.P.W. would be able to guide us in forming an opinion."

**Mr. MAY**: "Plan B would appear to be the better."

The **PRESIDENT**: "I recommend plan B."

The **PRESIDENT**—I propose that a reply be sent stating that the Board approves of plan B. This was agreed to.

#### UNNECESSARY QUARANTINE.

Much correspondence has passed with the Board in regard to the quarantining of vessels from Hongkong on account of plague and smallpox. The veto with regard to smallpox has been withdrawn, but all vessels are still subject to quarantine for ten days from leaving this port or since the last case of plague.

**Dr. Atkinson** minuted: "Attention should be drawn to the fact that there is no epidemic of plague now existing in this Colony."

It was agreed to send information to the various Consuls.

#### MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the Colony for the week ended 10th August were laid on the table.

#### THE EMPLOYMENT OF RAT-CATCHERS.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the employment of four rat-catchers.

The four rat catchers recently employed by the Board commenced work on the 1st inst., but, owing to the scarcity of traps, very little was done till the 5th inst. A sufficient number has now been obtained, and, up till the 13th inst., 120 rats were caught. The majority of these were taken alive to the Disinfecting Station. Inspector Reidie reports that the distribution of traps among the Chinese householders is a very difficult matter, and the rat-catchers are meeting with a good deal of opposition, some of the Chinese appearing to think that if rats are caught in their houses the premises will be disinfected. He therefore suggested the issuing of explanatory notices by the Registrar General. As a result of this recommendation, 200 posters and 5000 leaflets were requisitioned for on the 19th inst.

#### HOUSES FOR CHINESE WORKING CLASSES.

Plans were submitted by Messrs. Leigh & Orange, architects, for dwellings for the Chinese working classes.

**Mr. OSBORNE**—The whole point in the improved type of Chinese houses is that each cubicle should have a window opening out into the light and air. I think we ought to recommend the Government to assist us in securing this improvement.

The **PRESIDENT**—I might mention that the people who propose to purchase the land are prepared to build houses in accordance with the plan prepared by myself, so that if other people are allowed by the Board to substitute houses on a less expensive job such as that, and a less sanitary job as well, the people who propose to purchase it would be almost sure to be ousted in the bidding.

**Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN** seconded Mr. Osborne's proposal, which was carried.

This was all the business.

A sad fatality occurred on board the *L.C. s.s. Loksang* last week, say the *N.C. Daily News* of the 17th inst., when the steamer was at Mororan taking on a cargo of coal for Shanghai. A shot was heard, the sound of which indicated that it had been fired in the second-engineer's cabin. On entering the cabin, the body of the second-engineer was seen huddled up on the floor, with a revolver, still smoking, in the hand. Although the shot had entered the forehead and gone right through the head, the man was still living when the cabin was entered; but was unable to speak and expired in less than a minute. From the position of the body, it was thought that it was either a case of suicide, or that the revolver had gone off accidentally.

## HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3.30 p.m. on Monday, the 12th August, 1901.—Present: Sir Thomas Jackson (Chairman), Mr. C. S. Sharp (Vice-Chairman), Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. A. Haupt, W. Poate, R. L. Richardson, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, H. E. Tomkins, Hon. T. H. Whitehead (*ex officio*), and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

#### MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous monthly meeting (held 9th July, 1901), were read and confirmed.

#### SANITATION OF THE COLONY.

I: continuation of correspondence on the above subject, read letter received 16th July from the Colonial Secretary enclosing copy of a minute by the Medical Officer of Health relating to the handling of the sick, the cleansing of drains and houses, and the inspection of slums.

Also read letter from the Government on same subject, dated 18th July, transmitting a lengthy memorandum on legislations on sanitary matters.

It was unanimously decided to simply acknowledge receipt of these documents, the latter of which has since appeared in the blue-book and been published in and commented on by the local Press.

#### THE PROHIBITION OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION INTO STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 3rd July, informing the Chamber that the Government of the Straits Settlements felt unable at present to remove the prohibition against Chinese immigration from Hongkong, but such prohibition would be withdrawn so soon as it could be done with safety.

Also read letter, dated 7th August, in which the Colonial Secretary announced that the Straits Government had withdrawn the prohibition on Chinese immigration but that quarantine would be maintained for the present.

Resolved to write an acknowledgement and tender the Chamber's thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his prompt and energetic action in this matter.

#### QUARANTINE.

The Secretary reported that letters had been received (and acknowledged) from Government under date 13th and 27th July announcing that Karachi had been declared free from plague and that subsequently three new cases and one death had occurred there from the disease. Also that, on 27th July, intimation had been received, from the same quarter, that Swatow had been declared free from plague and that clean bills of health could now be granted to the port.

#### THE MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PASSENGERS.

The Secretary stated that the rejoinder by Mr. Ritchie to Dr. Swan's memorandum, with covering letter to Colonial Secretary, together with certain enclosures, had been forwarded to the Government, but up to date no reply had been received.

#### THE CHINESE INDEMNITY AND TARIFF.

Read letter from London Chamber of Commerce, dated 28th June, acknowledging receipt of Chamber's letter of 3rd May on the above subject and transmitting copy of the reply of the Foreign Office to same, stating that His Majesty's Government fully realise the importance of the considerations brought forward by the Hongkong and Shanghai Chambers of Commerce.

#### THE DUTY ON OPIUM.

In reference to the announcement made recently by Reuter in respect of the Chinese tariff, a letter was, on the 7th August, received by the Secretary from Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co. and E. D. Sassoon & Co., asking the Chamber to wire to the British Minister at Peking and ascertain whether there will be any change in the present tariff of duty and *lehs* on foreign opium.

The following telegram was accordingly addressed to Sir Ernest Satow the same evening:—

"Hongkong opium merchants wish to ascertain will there be any increase of duty or *lehs* on opium. Please advise. Thomas Jackson, Chairman, Chamber."



To this the subjoined reply was received the following evening:—

"Sir Thomas Jackson, Chairman,  
"Chamber, Hongkong."

"Your telegram of August 7th. No.  
none is contemplated. Satow."

The Secretary stated that the result of the inquiry was communicated to all the members of the Chamber concerned in the opium trade.

Decided, when acknowledging receipt of the telegram, to convey the thanks of the Chamber to Sir Ernest Satow for his ready response to the inquiry.

#### THE DIFFICULTY OF PROCURING BALLAST.

Read letter from the Government, dated 30th July, in reply to the Chamber's letter of the 12th idem on the above subject, stating that H. E. the Governor regretted to hear of the delay in the issue of permits and had given instructions which it was hoped would obviate such delay in the future. The question of quarrying in order to obtain stone for ballast was then engaging the attention of the Government.

#### REGISTRATION OF CHINESE PARTNERSHIPS.

Read letter from Singapore Chamber of Commerce stating that as this question—now before the Penang Chamber—is likely soon to come up at Singapore, they would be glad of all the information this Chamber can afford them on the matter.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought it would be better to defer any attempt to give information until the Report of the Committee now sitting to inquire into this subject has been issued. He himself recently gave evidence before the Committee, and from what he heard he thought it was pretty certain that the Report would be adverse to the proposal. He had waded through a huge pile of correspondence, &c., on the subject, and the impression derived from their perusal was that registration would prove impracticable in Hongkong. Of course in the Straits Settlements the circumstances were considerably modified, but he understood that there was a good deal of opposition to the measure there.

After some conversation,

It was decided to write an acknowledgement and inform the Singapore Chamber of the circumstances, promising to forward particulars when the Report of the Registration Committee now sitting is published.

#### CABLE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BRITISH COUNTRIES.

Read letter from the Ottawa Board of Trade, dated 20th June, submitting appendices, and urging promotion of the movement to secure the cheapest and speediest and most effective means of intercourse between all parts of the British Empire by means of State owned telegraph cables under the control of the Post Office.

It was resolved to publish this letter, which was regarded as of great public importance.  
SUGGESTIONS FOR ABOLITION OF LEKIN AND  
ADOPTION OF INDIAN SYSTEM FOR LEVY  
OF DUTY ON SALT INTO CHINA.

Read letter from Mr. G. Jamieson, enclosing copies of his memorandums on the above subjects.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought these memoranda were of the greatest interest and importance. They had been laid before several public bodies, and would receive consideration. He was particularly struck by the remarks on the collection of salt in India. It was evident that an enormous revenue on this article might be collected in China.

This was all the business of public interest before the meeting.

The following is the letter referred to under the heading of Cable Communication between British Countries:—

The Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa,  
Ottawa, Canada, 20th June, 1901.

SIR,—On behalf of the Ottawa Board of Trade, the President and Council have the honour to submit the following remarks, together with the appendices hereto, on the movement to secure the cheapest, the speediest, the freest, and the most effective means of intercourse between all the King's subjects throughout His vast empire.

Representing trade and commerce in the Capital of Canada, the Ottawa Board of Trade feels it a public duty incumbent on them to

take this means of expressing the conviction they have reached that all the British possessions throughout the world should be directly connected by State-owned telegraph cables under the control of the Post Office.

Such a scheme is regarded by the members of the Board as an effective means of fostering trade and stimulating commercial activity, at the same time constituting a bond of Imperial unity of inestimable value.

The proposal requires not only that the connecting trans-marine cables should be under Government control, but likewise that the land telegraphs of the several British possessions should be State-owned. The land telegraphs of the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the Australian States, India and South Africa, are already nationalised and administered by the Post Office, Canada is the only exception; but the transfer of the Canadian Telegraph lines to the Post Office, together with the laying of a State-owned cable across the Atlantic, is, we are informed, under the consideration of the Government, and it may be assumed that Canada will not long remain the only country within the Empire where the telegraph system is not, in the public interests, controlled by the State.

More than a year ago the scheme of world-encircling telegraphs was earnestly considered by this Board, and resolutions were then passed pointing out the necessity for establishing the Pacific Cable as the initial link in such a system of State-owned Cables.

It is a matter of great gratification to the Board to know that the Pacific Cable is now being established, under a joint agreement between the Home Government and the Governments of Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand, and that there is every prospect of Canada being connected with the United Kingdom at an early date by a State-owned Trans-Atlantic Cable. With these works completed and the Canadian land lines nationalised, the whole distance from England to the shores of the Indian Ocean, say at Perth, the capital of Western Australia, will be covered by a series of cables and land telegraphs under State control. Perth is near the 116th meridian east, while it is 244 degrees of longitude westerly from London. reckoning by meridians of longitude, therefore, two-thirds of the globe will be girdled by a State-owned telegraph service so soon as the Pacific cable and Canadian lines associated therewith are established as national works.

The necessity for connecting India and other British possessions in Asia with the Imperial system of telegraphy must, however, be recognised. On reference to the papers appended it will be found that the Imperial scheme of cables to traverse the Indian and Atlantic oceans between Perth and London, embraces the following work, viz:—

1. Cable from Western Australia via Cocos Island and Mauritius to South Africa, with branches to India and Singapore—9,100 miles.

2. Cable from South Africa via Ascension and Barbadoes to Bermuda, thence to Canada and the United Kingdom 6,600 miles.

These two sections together make 15,700 nautical miles, while the distance from London to Perth by the Canadian route is about the same, the actual distance being a few hundred miles less. Thus it will be seen that taking into account branch cables to connect all the British possessions, half the whole work is already or will shortly be accomplished.

Since the projected Imperial Post Cable Service was formally submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1893, certain telegraph companies have been permitted to lay private cables on the sections east and west of South Africa; it may, however, be assumed that in a matter which has been correctly described as of transcendent importance to the British people everywhere, care has been taken, by those acting for the State, to reserve the right to expropriate these cables whenever in the public interests they may be required.

The papers appended set forth the scheme in detail, and furnish ample explanations on all essential points. These documents contain the matured judgment of Sir Sanford Fleming, a member of the Board, who has given more attention to the subject than any

other man, and in whose views this Board entirely concurs.

In one of these appendices it is pointed out that it was largely owing to the action and influence of the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom that the Postal Telegraph Service was introduced thirty years ago in the Mother Country. Similarly we believe it to be in the power of the various bodies, representing Trade and Commerce through the Empire, to influence the universal adoption of the Imperial Postal Cable Service. It is with that object in view that this appeal is made. We respectfully and earnestly invite the aid and co-operation of all such bodies in bringing to completion "the crowning development of the British Post Office."

In the name and by the authority of the Board of Trade of the Capital of the Dominion of Canada, we ask all concerned in this Imperial movement to take such action as may tend most speedily to nationalise the telegraph system, by land and sea, of the whole Empire.

We have the honour to be,

Your obedient servants,

(Sd.) JOHN COATES,  
President.

(Sd.) CECIL BETHUNE,  
Secretary.

To the PRESIDENT, General Chamber of  
Commerce, Hongkong, China.

### BUILDING IN HONGKONG.

#### THE COCHRANE STREET COLLAPSE.

Saturday, 17th August.

The work of clearing away the ruins and digging out additional victims of the deplorable disaster is proceeding very slowly, far too slowly in fact for the comfort and good health of the surrounding community. It seems plain that there are still a number of dead bodies underneath the debris. Who is to blame for the delay we do not know, but certainly not the police, for they worked heroically. But the coolies put on the work are ridiculously few, and if it is not possible in the circumstances to impress as many as required, double or even treble the ordinary wages ought to be paid to secure the necessary labour. Otherwise an epidemic may break out in the neighbourhood of the late disaster. Is it impossible to call for volunteers from among the soldiers of the garrison? Thirty soldiers would clear the place in about ten hours. Whereas, as things are going, it will be a fortnight before the rubbish is cleared away, and all sorts of diseases may break out meanwhile.

Only two more dead bodies were found between the hours of 10 p.m. on the 15th inst., and 6 a.m. yesterday, when the search was discontinued, the coolies being occupied in clearing off and carting away the broken timbers.

Monday.

When the disastrous collapse of houses took place in Cochrane Street on the 14th inst. the side-walls of Nos. 30 and 36, which are situated on each side of the ruined dwellings, were left entirely unsupported, and bulged alarmingly as the work of clearing away the debris proceeded. Eventually operations had to be suspended to permit of the shoring up of these walls, which was done by A. Hok, contractor, 37, D'Aguiar Street. Stretched between the two tottering erections were innumerable bamboos, a miniature forest of them; and, everything at last appearing secure, work was recommenced. As it proceeded, however, the wall at No. 36 began to bulge further and to crack, and on Sunday morning came down with a rum, falling outwards, in spite of the bamboo shoring, and crashing on top of the ruins of Nos. 32 and 34. Fortunately such an event was foreseen, and due precautions were taken. The tenants were cleared out, and as no one was working at the place where the wall fell the incident was unattended by casualty. If similar fortunate circumstances could but attend the fall of almost all of the remaining houses in Cochrane Street, and elsewhere in the city where such examples of jerry-building exist, one might be pardoned for wishing that they may fall soon. From one building behind the Stag Hotel the tenants have been cleared out, and a couple of Indians set to keep guard, the authorities anticipating its falling-in at any moment.



All hope of further saving life in the Cochrane Street ruins has long ago been abandoned. Many bodies are believed to be still buried beneath the rubbish, and the smell at times is fearful. The fleshless skull of one victim could be seen yesterday morning lying on top of the debris. Apart altogether from the risk, the task of the policemen and firemen is anything but a pleasant one.

House No. 36, whose side-wall collapsed as already stated, was pulled down about noon. House No. 30 ought also to be pulled down, as it is certainly not safe for men to work right alongside clearing away the debris of the other buildings.

Two bodies were found on Saturday and one yesterday, making a total of 26 dead up till 3 p.m. yesterday.

We were glad to note that those responsible for clearing away the fallen material have at last awakened to the necessity of haste. On Saturday quite a large gang of coolies, men and women, a relay of Sikhs, and European and Chinese firemen were at work, as well as several members of the P. W. D.

If we are correctly informed, increased activity and the presence of dust-carts to cart away the rubbish is largely due to H.E. the Governor, who gave orders to the P. W. D. to engage as many coolies as were required, and if necessary to pay double wages. He further ordered that all the men labouring in clearing away the ruins were to have all the refreshments they wanted, which were to be procured from the police canteen and paid for by the Government. Needless to say full advantage was taken of this generous concession, and the men were able to work all the better for it.

A box containing \$210 was excavated from the debris on Saturday and taken to the Central Station. There is said to be another box containing money and valuables underneath the rubbish, but it has not been unearthed yet.

Tuesday.

The work of clearing away the ruins of the late disaster is proceeding, but still slowly, a very small gang of Chinese coolies being at work, and doing as usual very little effective work, the Europeans doing the most. The energy shown by the Government on the 17th inst. seems to have evaporated quickly. While on Saturday there were sufficient to progress quickly with the work, on the 18th and 19th inst. there were barely forty coolies, men and women, at work during the day, and only about twenty-five last night. Refreshments at Government expense for the workers at the ghastly job of unearthing corpses have also been stopped.

Since Sunday night there have been nine dead bodies recovered, bringing the total of dead up to thirty-four.

Another instance of a most miraculous escape was shown by the unearthing of a man still alive. He was discovered yesterday afternoon about four o'clock, but the rescuers were unable to extricate him at once. Food and drink were passed to him through an aperture, which he received with joy and even laughter, exhorting his rescuers to extricate him quickly. While they were attempting to do so, some of the debris which was lying upon some timbers which were suspended above the unfortunate man and had hitherto saved him from being crushed came down and he was again buried out of sight. The rescue party went to work with a will to unearth once more the victim, but it was quite 7.30 p.m. before they succeeded in freeing him. A few drinks of spirit stimulated him sufficiently to enable him to walk to a chair, apparently unhurt. He was taken to the Government Civil Hospital.

This last rescue only emphasizes our statement of last Saturday as to the need of a prompt clearing away of the fallen materials. If a man could live beneath the ruins since last Wednesday night, prompt and energetic work in clearing the debris might have saved many more lives.

Up to date, the total recovered, dead, wounded, and unhurt, amounts to 62.

Wednesday.

The removing of the ruins at the scene of the Cochrane Street house-collapse is proceeding apace. Thirteen dead were exhumed on Monday night and one on the 20th inst., a total of fourteen, making a grand total of dead unearthed since the accident of forty-three.

All the debris has now been removed from the centre of the street, thus permitting of its free

passage, and the heap where the collapse occurred is diminishing appreciably. No more bodies had been recovered since morning up to the time when we went to press Tuesday night.

The man was unearthed on the 20th inst. whose miraculous escape from death has caused a great deal of wondering comment, is doing well in the Government Civil Hospital, and recovering strength hourly.

ANOTHER COLLAPSE.

Thursday.

It would appear as though some of the old structures dignified by the name of buildings had suddenly grown tired of bearing responsibilities which they are incapable of supporting, and had determined to come down of their own accord. Another collapse took place on the 21st inst. The building involved is situated at 21, Lower Lascar Road, and is at present under repair. At the back of the building, and looking out on U Yam Lane, are, or rather were, situated two kitchens, or cookhouses, and a cockloft. On the ground floor is the area, above that was the cockloft, and over that again were the two kitchens, one above the other. Shortly after eleven o'clock people in the neighbourhood were startled by a sudden rumble, and on running in the direction of the noise, guided by the gesticulations of the frightened workmen on the building, they saw a great heap of debris lying in the area already mentioned, and above nothing but a few torn bricks and rafters where formerly had been the kitchens and cockloft. Information was immediately sent to the Central Police Station, whence a relief party, composed of European and Chinese firemen and policemen and Sikh constables, was despatched to the scene under Inspector McNab. Accompanying the party were coolies bearing an ambulance and a dead-box. Captain Superintendent May was present. On arriving at the U Yam Lane, which runs up past the "Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle" saloon, attention was immediately directed to the clearing away of the ruins, the men, Europeans and Asiatics alike, tearing at the material with picks and shovels, some even with their bare hands.

The cause of the collapse is as yet an open question, but it is doubtless the same as in previous cases—old material incapable of bearing the weight placed upon it. The floor of the topmost kitchen presumably gave way and carried with it the kitchen and cockloft underneath.

Later.

Further enquiries show that one life was lost in the collapse at Lower Lascar Road—that of a coolie, aged about 40. The body was unearthed shortly after twelve o'clock, and taken to the mortuary.

It now appears that balconies and an additional storey were being added to the building, and that the accident was probably caused by the fact that the mortar, etc., used in connection with the work had been stored in the topmost kitchen until its increasing weight proved too heavy for the joists, and they gave way, with the result already stated. The houses are used by Chinese as dwellings.

Three houses in the same street have been certified by the Inspector of Buildings to be in a dangerous condition, and the owner has been ordered to shore them up.

AN ABORTIVE PROSECUTION.

P. T. Crisp, Inspector of Buildings, charged Tee Chong, Wing Wo & Co., Contractors, Stanley Street, with filling in party-walls in a building in course of erection at Kowloon Inland Lot No. 421, with small pieces of brick instead of whole ones. The case was tried before Mr. Kemp, Acting Magistrate, on Friday morning.

Mr. Crisp stated that he inspected the building, and before removing the bricks, he called European Constable No. 7 to witness. When he had removed the outer bricks, he found a whole row of small pieces laid between. The bricks were produced in court, and Mr. Crisp illustrated to His Worship how they had been placed and in this way saved a brick every second course all the wall around. The pieces had been thrown in loosely, but partly imbedded in mortar. Witness claimed that walls should be built only of whole bricks, and quoted in support of his statement the Building Ordinance, which says that a wall should be built of incombustible material and

in a solid manner. Of course, continued witness, it was to the benefit of the contractor to build walls in the manner this one had been built.

P. C. No. 7, testified to having witnessed the removal of the bricks and a lot of small pieces by first witness. He himself examined the wall, and had seen a line of small pieces all round. Only some of the pieces were in mortar.

Defendant in reply stated that it was absolutely necessary to use the small pieces of brick found in the wall. He had an European foreman, named Hamlin, in charge of his work, who thoroughly understood his business. It was impossible to build buildings without the use of small pieces of brick. Besides, suggested the defendant, what did a policeman know about building?

Mr. R. K. Leigh, architect, was a witness for the defence. He said he had twenty-one years' experience of buildings in Hongkong. He was a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. He was the architect for the building in question, and he visited it twice a week, and also kept an European overseer in charge of the work. Witness had seen the building last on Thursday, and had never seen work done as demonstrated by first witness. The buildings were erected in first-class style, of sound work and material. Had he (witness), seen any work of the nature stated, he would have had it undone long ago.

In answer to a query of His Worship, witness explained that owing to an irregularity in Canton bricks they did not lie like English bricks and the cavities that always occurred had to be filled out with small pieces.

Mr. Crisp—But there was a long line of small pieces of brick.

Witness declared he never saw them.

Mr. Hamlin, overseer, practically corroborated last witness's statement, saying there was no undue proportion of small bricks used in the building in question.

After a passage between Mr. Crisp and Mr. Leigh, in regard to their respective lengths of experience of buildings, His Worship decided that no undue proportion of small pieces had been used and dismissed the summons.

## FATAL COLLISION IN THE HARBOUR.

As reported by us on the 19th inst., a collision took place late on the 17th inst. between the steam launch *Lee Sang* and a cutter from the hospital-ship *Meance*. The cutter, it was stated at the time, was carrying no lights, and the *Lee Sang* ran into her at full speed, cutting her in two. There were ten people on board the cutter, all Chinese, and only two were rescued by the launch when the other boat sank.

Later details show that the accident is more serious than at first sight appeared, eight Chinamen—three ward-room boys on the *Meance* and five of the hands on the cutter—having been drowned. Up till on the 19th inst. only two bodies had been recovered—one that of the coxswain of the cutter and the other that of one of the ward-room boys. One was picked up near the Commissariat Pier and the other off the Kowloon Police Pier. They were taken to the mortuary.

According to the two survivors from the cutter, the statement by the crew of the *Lee Sang* that the cutter was carrying no lights is inaccurate. There was a light on board the cutter, but for reasons yet unexplained it was not shown, having been carried on deck and not exposed until a collision became inevitable, when it was waved violently to and fro. The launch struck the cutter amidships, causing her to sink in a few moments.

The *Meance* is the military hospital-ship attached to this station, and the cutter was the Army Service Corps routine boat, which left Commissariat Pier at twenty minutes past ten on Saturday night to take off details of the Royal Army Medical Corps and ward-room boys employed on the *Meance*. As already stated, there were ten people on board when the cutter started for Commissariat Pier—six of the Army Service Corps boys and four of the *Meance's* ward-room boys. It was purely by chance that no European was on board: nine times out of ten one accompanies the routine boats on their journeys to and from the hospital-ship.

Two more bodies were recovered on Wednesday.



## THE NEW TERRITORY IN 1900.

The report on the New Territory for the year 1900 is published in the *Gazette*. It is preceded by a letter from H. E. the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which runs as follows:—

Government House,  
Hongkong, 12th August.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward for your information a report furnished by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, on the operations in the New Territory during the year 1900.

2. I had hoped that the collection of revenue might have been in a more forward state, but the report by Mr. Gompertz of the working of the Land Court shows the difficulties of dealing with these small plots and defining the rights of the occupier, the family, the clan, and the Crown. It is possible that a certain amount of revenue might have been got in by rough and ready methods, but there would have been much injustice to individuals—indeed an attempt was made to collect, upon a system of averages, Crown Rent upon claims that had been lodged, the result being complaints from several people that they had been compelled to pay two and three times the amounts claimable from them under the terms of Crown Rent as gazetted and notified. Finding that this was true, I ordered the money paid in excess to be refunded, and determined that it is better not to press for payment until we have the different plots properly entered and registered. This is slower, but will save much trouble in the future. I attach a copy of another report of Mr. Gompertz's decision as to ownership in the small Island of Tsing I that will illustrate the intricacy of the claims put forward to the Land Court.

3. I hope to be able to reduce the number of police in the New Territory immediately. Since the late abortive rebellion in the Wai Chou district the northern portion of Sham Chun Valley has been in a disorderly condition, and several robberies have been effected in our territory by bands from over the border. At my request the Viceroy of Canton, who has shown the utmost readiness to assist in securing the peace of that district, has ordered that troops shall be stationed at various points along the frontier. I hope that this will have the effect of putting a stop to the trouble, and enable me to reduce our police force to more modest dimensions.

4. Unhappily we find the whole of the New Territory malarious. Experiments are now being tried of different treatment at different stations, and records are being carefully kept. At one station quinine is administered as a prophylactic after Dr. Koch's advice, i.e., 15 grains two days running and then an interval of seven days before repetition. At another, 5 grain doses are given daily; at a third arsenic is given instead, &c., &c. Wire-gauze windows are being added to stations, but as the men are out almost every night on patrol duty I fear that this will not suffice as a preventive measure.

5. The question of an experimental garden must remain over until Mr. Ford's return, but I question if the low-lying land can be made to produce more paying crops than at present. The fresh sugar cane imported last year are doing well, but, so far, the working of the improved steel mills does not meet with the approval of the farmers, the principal complaint being that they break up the cane so finely as to make it useless for fuel. They do not yet realise the waste of using half crushed cane for fuel, and probably do not quite understand the working of the mills. This will come later on.

6. I have seen one herd of cattle grazing near Saikung, and it appears to me that with the growing of succulent grasses, the hills in the New Territory are capable of supporting a sufficient number of cattle to render Hongkong independent of the present sources of supply on the West and North Rivers. This is a question that will be taken up on the return of the Veterinary Surgeon and the Superintendent of the Botanic and Afforestation Departments.

7. It is remarkable that the New Territory north of the Kowloon Hills has been quite free from plague although the town of Unlong is apparently everything that a sanitarian would

object to, while in the fishing village of Cheung Chan, an island six miles from Hongkong, a single street, kept particularly clean under the supervision of the European police sergeant stationed there, and open to every sea breeze, there have been 40 cases this year in a population of about 1,800.

8. A licence has just been issued to a person in Unlong for a powder-manufactory, for the making of fireworks—a very large industry in China. I am informed that in the neighbourhood of Kowloon several ventures of various kinds will be started as soon as the land claims have been decided so that capitalists can obtain a title.

9. On the whole I am satisfied with the progress made in the New Territory, where everything is being done without friction and with apparently the full concurrence of the people.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

HENRY A. BLAKE.

Governor &c.

The Right Honourable

JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.

&c., &c., &c.

Then follows the report of the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, from which we make the following extracts:—

## LAND.

The work of the Land Office in Hongkong as regards the New Territory for 1900 falls under two heads:—

(a.) The translation and registration of deeds under Ordinance No. 3 of 1844.

(b.) The registration of claims for the purposes of the Rough Rent Roll.

As regards (a.), the Registration Fees received from the New Territory last year amounted to \$1,892, and Deeds relating to 431 Lots situated in 45 different villages were duly registered by Memorials under the Ordinance.

The question has been raised whether it is desirable to continue the registration of instruments in the Chinese language dated in some cases many years before the Convention. It is found that villagers who have deposited their documents for registration and paid the proper fees are apt to imagine that their title has been recognised by Government, and that they need not trouble further to bring their claims before the Land Court. Moreover, the lot number given on registration of a deed does not relate to any map, for the simple reason that there is not yet one available, and as the boundaries and the description of the land in the Chinese deed are invariably extremely vague, it is impossible to ascertain with any certainty where the land affected by the instrument is really situated. It is true that the title of a registered owner becomes absolute if he remains in possession for 20 years, but in view of the constitution of a special tribunal—the Land Court—all claims will have been enquired into and fresh titles or certificates of title issued by a very much earlier date. It would no doubt be desirable to continue the operation of the Ordinance in the New Territory for all conveyances and other deeds executed since the territory has become British, but it will probably be advisable to discontinue the registration of older deeds until their validity has been decided on by the Land Court.

Until a rent roll based on the cadastral survey and the results of the work of the Land Court has been completed, the land revenue of the New Territory cannot be collected in anything like a satisfactory or thorough manner, though every attempt will be made in the meantime to collect as much Crown rent as possible.

## TITLES.

I attach a memorandum by Mr. Gompertz, Member of the Land Court, upon Land Tenure and Titles in the New Territory. He recommends a modification of the Torrens System of Title by Registration, such as is in use in Malacca and the Federated Malay States, for the New Territory. In view of the very large number of small Chinese holdings in the New Territory, I am of opinion that this system will prove more effectual than the technical procedure based upon English law now in use in Hongkong.

## LAND COURT.

The Land Court, established by Ordinance No. 18 of 1900, was constituted on the 1st June,

1900, Mr. H. E. Pollock being President, and Mr. Gompertz, Member. Mr. Kemp was appointed Registrar, and on his removal to act at the Magistracy, Mr. Wood was appointed Registrar. A very large amount of work had to be done before the Court could commence its sitting. The formation of a proper demarcation staff and the arrangements connected with the registration and reception of claims provided full occupation for the Court, so that no sittings had been held up to the end of the year.

The Indians making the field to field survey were of course strangers to the country, and not knowing the language were unable to ascertain particulars of ownership. It became therefore necessary to form a staff of Chinese demarcators to accompany the survey parties, and as the outcome of several experiments twenty Chinese, mostly villagers of the better class, were enlisted to make the record of holdings. This work they have proved fairly competent to perform, but they are quite unable to read a map, and this necessitates their being accompanied in every case by a surveyor even when at work upon land the field to field survey of which has been completed.

The area selected for the commencement of operations was the long and narrow strip of territory, fronting the harbour of Hongkong and extending from the Linman Pass on the East to the village of Lai Chi Kok on the West, on account of its great importance as an outlet for the expansion of the colony and its very high value. Unfortunately the inhabitants of this area were fully alive to the possibilities of the situation, and it may be said that every foot of land anywhere near the sea is the subject of five or six conflicting claims. It is impossible to believe in the *bona fides* of many of the claimants or to imagine that their own Government would have given a patient hearing to many of the demands now put forward. At the same time when it is remembered that the Chinese authorities had never made a survey and that the Chinese magistrate seldom or never settled disputes over land of little value by personal inspection, it is evident that considerable patience and caution are now needed.

Besides the strip of country on the North shore of the harbour, 9 lesser islands lying between Hongkong and the large Island of Lan Tao have been taken as test cases. Five of them being barren and practically valueless have not been claimed and will therefore be considered as Crown Land. Four of the others were claimed by the representatives of wealthy families on the mainland, but no decision had been given by the court up to the end of the year.

There can be little doubt, however, that the operations of the Court will be far more rapid and the difficulties less in the districts to the north of the Kowloon watershed, from which most of the land revenue must be drawn in the future. The land outside permanent cultivation has been regarded by the Chinese as of little value, and will therefore be rarely claimed, while the ownership of land under crops is usually well-known and will hardly ever be the subject of dispute.

## SURVEY.

Mr. Tate and his assistant, Mr. Newland, with their staff of trained Indian Surveyors and coolies have been continuing the survey of the New Territory throughout the year. An area of 4,000 square miles has been triangulated, and of the points laid down, those which are situated within the New Territory are being marked. An area of 300 square miles has been surveyed on the scale of one inch to a mile for the topographical map, while an area of 4,500 acres has been surveyed partly on the scale of 16 inches and partly on the scale of 32 inches to a mile. A special survey of the Chinese town of Kowloon together with its walled or fortified portion has also been made on the scale of 64 inches to a mile.

Progress has not been rapid, partly owing to unfavourable weather, and it is evident that the work will cost more than was anticipated by this Government on the report of the Surveyor-General of India. As, however, the triangulation and the topographical survey are almost complete, it has been decided that Mr. Tate should return to India and that Mr. Newland should be retained with such staff as may



be considered necessary for the completion of the cadastral survey.

#### BOTANICAL AND AFFORESTATION DEPARTMENT.

Tree-planting was commenced around the Police Stations, at P'ing Shan, Au T'au, Tai-po, and on both sides of the road from Sham Sham-po to Sha T'in, 81,154 trees have been planted.

The quantity of land under sugar cultivation in the New Territory is estimated at over 7,000 acres.

At the suggestion of Mr. Tutchet it is intended to establish Experimental Gardens on some of the agricultural land in the New Territory. Mr. Tutchet is of opinion that there are many kinds of fruit which could be grown, and that the experiment if successful would improve the varieties already in the market and also supply new kinds. He mentions *Agave sisalana* as a plant likely to succeed, and states that though sisal hemp is not of such good fibre as Manila hemp, it will probably repay cultivation.

Great difficulty has been experienced in the attempt to prevent tree-cutting, but before effective measures can be taken to stop the practice, the Land Court will have to decide the validity of the various leases under which it is alleged that the Chinese Government granted the owners power to cut down trees growing on their property. If such rights are established it may be necessary for the Government to purchase them in cases where the trees are of importance to the health of the New Territory.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

The main road in course of construction between Kowloon and Tai-po, which when completed will be about 16 miles in length, has now reached a point 11½ miles distant from Kowloon. From this point on to Tai-po there is a passable foot-path. The plans for the last 5 miles are being completed in the Public Works Department, and it is hoped the road will be finished this year. It is intended ultimately to extend this road beyond Tai-po to the frontier.

The road to Kowloon City, 1½ miles in length, was completed early in 1900, as was also the cross-road leading from Tai Shek Ku to Yaumati. Both these roads have proved of great value as main arteries for traffic.

Telephone communication was extended to the temporary Police Station at San Tin, and also to Shat'aukok, so that the telephone communication between the various Police Stations in the New Territory and with Victoria is now complete.

Permanent Police Stations have been completed and occupied at Au T'au, at P'ing Shan and at Shat'aukok near Starling Inlet, while a station at Saikung on Shelter Bay is in course of construction.

An iron and concrete bridge of two spans of 15 feet each has been built to the Saikung Road just beyond Kowloon City, and the attention of the Public Works Department has also been engaged by the renewal of the Kowloon City Pier and the construction of a causeway to connect the hill on which the temporary official quarters at Tai-po now stand with an island close up to deep water.

#### EDUCATION.

Little has so far been done in the way of Education in the New Territory. It has, however, been decided to build a school for teaching English at Un-long, and during the cold season, the attendance officer of the Inspector of Schools visited the whole of the Territory. An inquiry has been made regarding the schools at present in existence, and steps will be taken to bring them so far as possible under the Education Department.

Malarial fever was very prevalent in the rainy season. . . . There has also been a great deal of dysentery amongst the police stationed in the New Territory. This, in the opinion of Dr. Bell, Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer, is another form of malaris, as the malarial parasites have been found in the blood and have answered more readily to treatment by quinine than by the other drugs usually employed in treating dysentery. All cases of this disease admitted to the Government Civil Hospital are being carefully examined with a view to ascertaining the extent to which malaria is a cause of dysentery.

Free vaccinations have been performed by Mr. Ho, but only 78 in number. There are

now 5 vaccinators with a good supply of vaccine lymph in the New Territory, and it is hoped that the inhabitants may gradually be induced to abandon the practice of direct inoculation now prevalent and submit to be vaccinated in the manner in vogue in civilised countries.

#### HARBOUR OFFICE.

A station at Tai-po in Mirs Bay was opened during January, 1901. From the 1st January to the 31st of December last, 6,140 licences, clearances, permits, etc., had been issued to junks at Ch'ung Chau, 3,676 at Tai O, and 4,764 at Tai-po. The figures for last year at Ch'ung Chau were 2,616 and at Tai O 1,353, so there has been a satisfactory increase at both these stations.

#### POLICE.

The strength of the Police Force in the New Territory up to the 25 of June last was as follows:—27 Europeans, 105 Indians, 30 Chinese and 10 interpreters, but on the date mentioned the stations on the frontier and at Tai-po were strengthened by a total force of 4 Europeans, 40 Indians and 4 Chinese, owing to a rising in the neighbouring Chinese territory. No attempt was, however, made to disturb the peace in the New Territory. Nine Europeans and 51 Chinese were employed during the year in the three launches which are used to patrol the waters of the New Territory.

Four piracies were committed in the waters of the New Territory upon steam-launches owned and licensed in Hongkong, and the frequency of these cases has led to special legislation with a view to compel owners of launches plying outside the harbour to take proper precautions against such attacks, which are invariably committed by persons who embark under the guise of passengers.

The Police in the New Territory again suffered severely from malarial fever in spite of every precaution.

#### CRIME.

The most notable feature is the increase in cases during the year. In 1899 the total number of cases for the New Territory was 155 with an aggregate of 271 accused persons. Of those cases only 23 were dealt with in the New Territory itself. In 1900 the total number of cases had increased to 586 involving 802 accused persons. Of these no fewer than 283 cases involving 393 accused persons were tried in the New Territory, while 303 cases comprising 409 accused persons were tried in Victoria. The increase is due partly to the mere complete development of the police organisation, and partly to the greater readiness with which the inhabitants seek the protection of the police by laying complaints before them. By far the largest item in the list of offences is that of unlawful possession of opium, with which altogether 222 persons were charged.

#### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure for 1900 was \$243,361.66, exclusive of the sums expended on the Police Establishment. Of this amount a sum of \$58,196.25 was spent on the construction of steam-launches, and a sum of \$13,200 on the charter of launches required whilst the new launches were being built. A sum of \$5,880 was also expended on Maxim guns with which it was deemed advisable to equip the Police Stations. Public Works in the New Territory, including the cost of the survey, were responsible for an expenditure of \$143,436.33. The expenditure on the Police Establishment in the New Territory amounted to \$102,292.48.

The revenue collected amounted only to \$17,530.75. This sum is certainly small when compared with the expenditure, but the difficulties in connection with the land settlement, to which reference has been made in this and previous reports, have hitherto rendered it impossible to make a satisfactory collection of Crown rents. The work of the survey and of the land court are progressing satisfactorily, though the rate of progress has necessarily been somewhat slow. When the survey is completed and rent-rolls have been compiled in accordance with it, holders of land will have no means of evading the payment of Crown rent for their holdings, which will yield a good yearly revenue. It must be remembered that most of the money already expended on account of the New Territory has been devoted to works of a permanent nature which cannot fail to add to its development. The cost of the civil

administration has not been large, though the expenditure on account of the police has been high, as it has been necessary to maintain a strong force of police in the interests of the peace and good order not only of the New Territory but also of the colony generally. It is hoped that before long it may be found possible to reduce the present large police expenditure. Though the New Territory does not pay its way at the present time, it seems not at all improbable that it will do so in the near future. Any one who may feel inclined to take a pessimistic view of its prospects should bear in mind the fact that when Hongkong itself, which has become so prosperous, first came under British rule, there were not a few people who prophesied that the colony would prove a failure, and as a matter of fact it had to receive assistance from the Imperial Exchequer for some years.

#### CONFISCATION OF PRESCRIPTIVE RIGHTS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

We have received from the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, with a request for publication, the following copy of a letter addressed by him to the Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Acting Attorney-General:—

Hongkong, 22nd August, 1901.

DEAR POLLOCK,—In reply to your note asking for my suggestions re the proposed For-shores and Seabed Ordinance, please allow me to point out the Supreme Court decided last year that a Crown Lease could not then operate so as to deprive certain fishermen of their "prescriptive rights" to take coral and shells from the sea, refer to case in re Lantau Marine Lot No. 2, and the Court gave judgment against the Government. If enacted, the Ordinance will enable the Government to do what the Supreme Court has decided the Government cannot now do legally, and the Government will not longer in respect of such Crown Leases be subject to the judgment of the Supreme Court. In other words this Ordinance, if it becomes law, will give the Government the power to dispossess proprietary rights and to confiscate "prescriptive rights" in direct violation of the Kowloon Extension Agreement of 9th June, 1898, by virtue of which the Imperial Government of China leased to the Government of Great Britain for 99 years certain territory on the Kowloon Peninsula.

The seventh clause of the said Agreement stipulates: "It is further understood that there will be no expropriation or expulsion of the inhabitants . . . and that if land is required . . . it shall be bought at a fair price." Expropriation means the dispossession of proprietary rights. This being so, I am distinctly opposed to the proposed Ordinance, which, if enacted, will confer power in the Colonial Government to dispossess proprietary and "prescriptive rights" in violation of the expressed provisions of the said Kowloon Extension Agreement.

In consequence of the existence of "prescriptive rights" in respect of the quarrying of stone in the Colony, I understand that hitherto the Government's power has been limited to letting the said Stone Quarries by public tender to the highest bidder—the lessee being allowed to make his own arrangement with the owners of the said "prescriptive rights." The fact that "prescriptive rights" exist in re the taking of coral and shells from the sea, was demonstrated by the Supreme Court's decision of last year, regarding Lantau Marine Lot No. 2, and so far the Government does not appear to have appealed against the said decision.

The conditions in these two questions being more or less similar, why should the Government's powers not be limited to letting by public tender to the highest bidder the taking of coral and shells from the sea adjoining the New Territory—the lessee being allowed to make his own arrangements with the owners of the said "prescriptive rights"?

The proposed enactment appears to me to be inequitable and unjust, and for the information of those interested and concerned, I propose to send a copy of this letter to the local Press for publication.—Yours very truly,

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.

The Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.,  
Attorney-General.



## TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 7th August.

## EVACUATION PROCEEDING.

Things political are moving in North China, but the motion is so slow that one has to take long intervals of time to detect it at all. The troops are steadily going away and the China Expeditionary Force is rapidly approximating to the size which will enable it to hold Tientsin, Shanhaikwan, and the lines of communication with the Capital and Paotingfu, some 20,000 in all. Neither the Ministers nor the soldiers have given any heed to the rumours of the raids of Tung Fuhsiang along the Mongolian frontier, and these rumours are now universally regarded as *canards*.

## THE COURT'S RETURN.

There is infinite talk of the return of the Court, and indeed the actual itinerary has been published and detailed orders issued to the local authorities with regard to the provision of boats and carts. The present scheme is that a start be made from Hsian about the 1st of September; the arrival in Honan will be sometime about the middle of the eighth moon; here the Autumn Festival will be observed. Boats will be taken at Weihwaifu, and the journey will thence be by water as far as Pechow in Shantung. From this place an overland journey is proposed as far as Paotingfu, the Provincial capital of Chihli, when the final stage will be made by train. This is a deviation from the original plan, and has been made to secure the greater comfort of boat travel. Li Hung-chang already talks of going to Paotingfu in a few days; from which spot he will notify the Court that he has come to meet it, but it is anticipated that he will at once be commanded either to stay there or to return to Peking, as at his advanced age he must not undergo unnecessary fatigue.

## LI HUNG-CHANG.

I may add that Li is far from well, and is in an extremely irritable state of mind, as well as of bodily frailty. He is surrounded by myriads of spies who report and misreport his every action to the Palace *canaille*, and who are moving heaven and earth to displace him. The old satrap is in a peculiarly odious position, he may be acting with the most consummate wisdom or folly, but in any case he is bound to be made the scapegoat for every ill that has befallen or will befall his country. What with exacting opponents facing him and treacherous rivals behind him, it is no wonder that his temper as well as his health gives way. He sometimes rages and storms the whole day long and is a terror to everybody round him. His chief English interpreter for the moment is young Tseng, the son of the late Marquis and the grandson of the famous Tseng Kwo-fan. There is a good deal of the English school-boy in about this clever youth, and Li not inaptly calls him the *Shiau Kwei Tse* (the Little Devil). I have some reason for supposing that the re-occupation of the Summer Palace by the British last week, a very unexpected and indeed sensational step, was the direct "reproof valiant" for a most discourteous, if not insulting, letter sent by the old man to Sir Earnest Satow. The Rajputs and the 11th Battery had definitely left the Palace, and the Chinese had again in some fashion taken possession. True it was that the Chen Wang-fu in the City, to which the Gunners returned, had a good deal of water in its front compound or court, but this was no adequate reason for the prompt return of the Battery to the Wan Shou Shan, eleven miles away from the city.

Li takes no care to hide from his environment his pro-Russian and anti-British sympathies, nor does he hesitate to give his reason, that we failed him in former emergencies.

## LEGAL QUESTIONS.

It is understood that the Crown Advocate, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, is making rapid progress with the private claims in Peking, and that we are to have him in a week or two in Tientsin. The claimants who have been interviewed by the learned gentleman are said to be much impressed with his fairness and by the procedure. In Tientsin he will have very difficult problems to solve. The trade system is peculiar; large sums are advanced to the compradores by the merchants; the former send men up into

Kokonor with bullion to buy produce, which begins to appear at the seaboard some twelve to twenty months afterwards. The questions to be solved are: Whose money is it? On whom does the responsibility lie if it miscarries? One thing is pretty certain, if the ground is taken that the money is that of the Chinese and these latter find no redress at the hands of their own folk, the trade of our port will receive a blow from which it will with difficulty recover.

## THE PEIHO RIVER.

The Peiho river conservancy is now a going concern, and the cessation of the rainy season in another two or three weeks will see the work begun. At first the straightening of the channel will be taken in hand; this is to be done by cuttings, a couple of miles of which in various localities will reduce the distance to Taku by seven or eight miles, by giving some of the acute bends a greater radius of curvature. The bar will not be attacked at present, though there is no doubt that it is after all the supreme crux in the question of the navigation of the metropolitan stream: it will ultimately have to be undertaken by permanent dredging operations. In former years good bar meant bad river, and *vice versa*; it is only in the past decade that both have gone wrong simultaneously.

We have had the heaviest rains of five years, and indeed if we have any more we are pretty sure to be flooded. Happily or unhappily, it will not affect the trade for the sole reason that there is little trade to be affected.

## DEPARTURE OF MR. PETHICK.

Mr. W. Pethick, the distinguished American sinologue who has for so many years been Li Hung-chang's foreign adviser and *fidus Achates*, is in a state of health far from reassuring to his many friends; he has had to leave the capital for Chefoo.

## NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 10th inst.:—

The Russians are reported to have built strong fortifications at Newchwang.

Capt. Denti though still carrying his arm in a sling, is going about apparently little the worse for his misadventure.

Prince Ching has sent for his family to return to Peking from Hsian, and they are expected to arrive in about a month's time.

Assurances come from Hsian to the effect that the tribute rice and military drill reforms will be inaugurated immediately.

A petition signed by thirty-six conservatives has just been sent in to the Censor against Li Hung-chang for his pro-foreign proclivities.

News from Honan is to the effect that crop prospects are very encouraging there, though sickness from poor and scarce food is very general.

The general condition of the country in Honan is quiet, though a certain amount of highway robbery is experienced.

We are glad to learn that the local officials have paid up the London Mission claims in full at Chibhow and Tsang-chow. The English Methodists at Laoling have also received an instalment.

According to the native papers the reason the British re-occupied the Summer Palace is because the British Minister made some extra demands of Li Hung-chang who declined them. Nothing like giving both sides of a picture.

Gen. Mei and Gen. Liu's men are reported to have had several conflicts with the villagers in which they have not come off well. In one conflict, as they were getting the advantage, a mine exploded as the Imperial troops were advancing, and killed 150 of them.

On investigation we find the report of the *Je Je* in reference to the intention of the P. G. to build a new bank is correct, and arrangements are now in progress for a three-storied building near the Iron Bridge, and the Public Works Department may possibly have their offices adjacent.

The *Je Je* states that Russia endeavoured to get some other Power to assist her in the pacification of Manchuria, but this was refused on the ground that Manchuria not having been restored to China no other nation could interfere. The Russians are reported to have withdrawn from Fung-tien to Fung-cheng.

We learn from several quarters that another intercalary moon is expected to occur next

year, but which month it is that is to be doubled is not stated yet. Some say the second. It is unusual for a double month to occur two years running, and the fact is regarded as a certain indication of trouble, the intercalary always betokening an uprising.

Gen. Mei has returned to Tientsin, and it is stated that he has succeeded in dispersing the brigands in several districts, and has killed altogether several hundred rowdies. In another place it will be observed we mention his defeat. We give both versions with impartiality, but one of them must be untrue, unless they refer to different periods of the gallant general's career.

## FOOCHOW

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 17th inst.:—

Referring to the uneasiness shown by the *Hongkong Telegraph's* correspondent, who is so anxious to know if, whilst the French troops, &c., we are happy to afford him what we think a satisfactory answer. Under the supervision of Frenchmen, the Foochow Arsenal has never turned out ammunition, and even the small artillery-shop, which existed for a certain time past in that arsenal, was removed from there by the Chinese, more than two years ago, a very short time after Lord Beresford had paid his visit to the Viceroy of Fuhkien and advised him (as he had done the high Mandarins in the North) to establish an army for the protection of foreigners: an advice that was well listened to, as we all know. It may be that ammunition, guns, or something of the kind, have been made in China by foreigners, during these last two or three years: foreigners were freely permitted to do so, before the troubles in the North. But, as a matter of fact, the thing did not take place in the Foochow Arsenal. Did it happen in the Shanghai Arsenal? It may be, but then the *Hongkong Telegraph* has been misinformed; the Shanghai Arsenal is supervised by Britishers, not by Frenchmen.

Another typhoon was telegraphed from Hongkong as passing up east of Formosa on the 12th inst. The barometer fell 2/10ths during the night, and high squally winds with heavy showers of rain supervened. A rise in the mercury early on the morning of the 13th gave us the assurance that possible trouble had passed by, nevertheless the gusty wind and heavy rain continued throughout the day and night. On the morning of the 14th the weather began to clear and has since been settled.

We regret to learn that the wrecked *Sobruon* was unable to withstand the fury of the late storm. It is reported that she broke in half and sank in the deep water outside the ledge of rock on which she rested. Great as the disappointment must be to the syndicate interested, it is satisfactory to know that the value of the sundries salvaged is larger than the expenditure for cost and expenses incurred.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MR. GILLIES AND HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."  
Hongkong, 16th August.

SIR,—I very seldom criticise, neither do I vent my feelings in public papers, but circumstances compel me to come forward to agitate on a question which I am sure will be supported by many shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. I am led to understand that the services of Mr. D. Gillies are to be recognised on his retirement from the management of the Dock Company in a very substantial manner by a monetary gift of a large sum of money.

On my part, neither of the shareholders has anything against the popular manager, who, I must say, has done a great deal to bring the concern to its present state of phenomenal success, but the interest of the shareholders must be looked to, and I do not consider the directors will take such steps as to part with the shareholders' money before actually calling a special meeting to discuss the subject.



Mr. Gillies is entitled to a great deal of recognition for all his excellent services, energy and perseverance to promote the welfare and interest of the concern, and the shareholders are not likely to ignore the fact. There are recognitions at times to such men, when the monetary gift is to benefit, by the interest to accrue from such gifts for the future support of the individual or his family. Mr. Gillies is not depending on such a gift or such an income?

I suggest that a handsome and valuable piece of plate with a special tablet engraved recognising all the goodness of the popular manager, which should not exceed say between \$5,000 to \$6,000 dollars, be given. This will be an heirloom and will remain a pleasing souvenir of his services in China to the shareholders of the Dock Company.—Yours, etc.,  
A SHAREHOLDER.

### BUILDING INSPECTION IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."  
17th August.

SIR,—Kindly permit me space in your columns to ask a few pertinent queries as who is responsible for the loss of life that has occurred during the past few years by the collapse of old, flimsily built houses, which ought to have been condemned and pulled down by the proper authorities; and moreover who will be responsible for all collapses and loss of life which are sure to take place in the future, if the present régime is permitted to continue?

The Cochrane Street buildings in question are old, very old, as has even been admitted by the Acting Director of Public Works. Now if they were old, and, as the disaster has proven, unsafe as human habitations, why were they not condemned and pulled down, and have saved about a half hundred of lives? Have we no surveyors and inspectors of buildings whose duty it is to inspect buildings and condemn to destruction all those found unsafe? If we have, why is it not done? To all appearances, judging by the rotten bricks, wood and mortar of the ill-fated houses, the same ought in all reason to have been condemned a year ago. Either the men whose duty it is to see to the conditions of the various tenements in this colony wilfully neglect their duty or they are perfectly incompetent.

How can any one with common sense expect a building whose main walls are only twelve inches thick, and the partition walls from six to eight inches thick, to remain intact in this climate, with our moonsoons, for say twenty or thirty years?

And not only are the old buildings neglected, and permitted to fall down through sheer old age, and crush the life out of men and women, but hundreds of similar buildings are run up in Wanchai, consisting of the same flimsy material, the same thin walls, the same haphazard mode of construction, using mere laths instead of boards and beams of the proper strength and dimensions, and merely using good bricks on the outside, and filling in the centre with rotten, broken bricks, the remnants of what once had been bricks. The main object of unscrupulous Chinese contractors and property owners seems to be to build the greatest number of tenements at the least possible cost and in the shortest space of time. The main objects are dividends; lives do not count.

Who passes the plans for new houses of this description? Whoever does is morally guilty of man-slaughter. Who employs incompetent and underpaid building surveyors and inspectors? Where is the Public Works Department and where are its officials? Why do they not bestir themselves and do their duty as it ought to be done? What is the head of the Government about that he allows such a state of things to exist?

These are a few questions I would wish to see answered.—Yours, etc.,  
ENQUIRER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."  
19th August.

SIR,—I have read with interest your correspondent's letter with reference to the recent collapse of houses in Cochrane Street, and I quite agree with him as to the absence of

proper supervision of old buildings; but can any one, much less the Government, expect the Surveyor-General and one Building Inspector to be capable of even casually examining the whole of the old houses in this colony periodically? The staff of the P.W.D. should be increased and the "Dangerous Buildings" laws amended.

Having held office under the London County Council, I beg to suggest that the Legislative Council consider the laws relating to Dangerous Structures now in force in the City of London. They are as follows:—

(1) "Where it is made known to the County Council that any structure is in a dangerous state the Council shall require a survey of such structure to be made by the District Surveyor or other competent surveyor.

(2) "Upon the completion the District Surveyor or other surveyor employed shall certify to the Council his opinion as to the state of the structure.

(3) "If the certificate is to the effect that the structure is not in a dangerous state, no further proceedings shall be had in respect thereof, but if it is to the effect that the structure is in dangerous state the Council may cause same to be shored up or otherwise secured and a proper board or fence put up for the protection of passengers, and shall cause notice to be served on the owner or occupier of the structure, requiring him forthwith to take down, secure or repair same, as the case requires.

(4) "If the owner or occupier on whom the notice is served fail to comply as speedily as the nature of the case permits with the notice, the Petty Sessions Court on complaint by the Council may order the owner to take down, repair, or otherwise secure to the satisfaction of the District Surveyor the structure or such part thereof as appears to the Court to be in a dangerous state, within a time to be fixed by the order, and if the same be not taken down, repaired, or otherwise secured within the time so limited the Council may with all convenient speed cause all or so much of the structure as is in a dangerous condition to be taken down, repaired or otherwise secured in a manner as may be requisite.

(5) 1. "All expenses incurred by the Council in relation to the obtaining of any order as to the dangerous structure and carrying the same into effect shall be paid by the owner of the structure, but without prejudice to his right to recover the same from any person liable to the expenses of repairs.

2. If the owner cannot be found or if on demand he refuses or neglects to pay the said expenses, the Council, after serving him with three months' notice of their intention to do so, may, if in their discretion they think fit, sell the structure, but they shall, after deducting from the proceeds of the amount, all expenses incurred by them, pay the surplus (if any) to the owner on demand.

These laws have been found efficient in dealing with the very many dangerous buildings in London for some thirty years. Why, if they are suitable there, with the 65 odd District Surveyors (and their staff), should they not be included in our laws?

The new buildings here, generally speaking, are not as good as the so-called jerry-built houses in the suburbs of London.

Trusting that in the interests of the Colony you will find space to publish this rather lengthy letter, yours, etc.,  
ANXIOUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."  
20th August.

SIR,—Nothing short of drastic measures and thorough overhauling of the Public Works Department, or rather its Buildings Inspection (though practically it is non-inspection) Branch, would save the situation. Apparently, this branch of the department is criminally negligent. The Building Inspectors may be honest, hardworking men, but if this wholesale massacre of poor inoffensive people is the only fruit of all their pains and trouble, it goes without saying that they stand in bad need of a closer supervision and stricter rules of conduct. These inspectors must be made to feel and recognise the risk and responsibility attaching to their duties as such. The P.W.D. should open a Departmental Fund, somewhat on the basis of a Provident or Pension or Guarantee

Fund to which each inspector should be made to contribute a specified sum every month proportionate to his pay. Each inspector should be placed in charge of a district or districts, if small, with a limited number of houses. At the end of each day he should be required to fill in a form showing his locality, the number of houses he has inspected that day, the nature, scope, and result of his inspection, the then condition of the houses, the kind of materials used, the then state of the walls, the number of persons residing therein and last, though not least, the name, identity, and financial standing, if practicable, of the landlord or landlady. Whenever hereafter any such deplorable catastrophe occurs, the inspector or inspectors involved therein should be at once suspended and called upon to explain the situation. If he is found to blame, he must be dismissed the service and he forfeits all claim to the proportionate participation in the accumulations of the Fund to which he has been one of the contributors, and his share shall be given away as compensation to the injured or bereaved person or persons, especially in cases where they have lost their bread-winner. If the inspector carries a clean record, or even has had catastrophes entered against him which on inquiry could not be put to his bad account, he should be entitled to receive his proportionate share in the Fund by way of reward for services conscientiously done and performed. Periodical reports should be published in the papers detailing records of individual inspectors.

But the hard-working inspectors should not alone be made the scapegoats. This work in a British Colony and under the British Flag, is not to be laid at the door of the inspectors or the P.W.D. alone. It is the work of a guild the moving factors of which are the contractor, the money-lender, and the blind and unscrupulous gambler and speculator in property. It is a widely known fact that to-day there are in the property market many half-penny and two-penny men, Chinese and foreigners, who blindfoldedly gamble and speculate in property and whose financial mainstay is the professional money-lender, the Loan Company, and the Bank. They pay any amount of interest. Twelve and fifteen per cent. are even talked of. How long is this state of things going to be tolerated? It is a matter for urgent and special legislation. Legislature has already stepped in other directions to the great relief of the community. Fifteen years ago all Hongkong and his wife went mad over stock-jobbing and share-speculating; gentlemen of birth and position connected with highly respectable firms fell from their commercial positions; from principals they became brokers; from brokers they were driven to be suicides. Legislature came forward and did its duty, namely introduced and passed the share bill. Again, fifteen years ago, Fire Insurance Companies were cutting each other's throats, so to say, and unscrupulous people were not wanting to take advantage; all sorts and classes of people insured their belongings and incendiarism was the order of the day. Legislature indirectly brought pressure to bear upon the Insurance Companies who had their eyes already opened and who at once set about remedying this dreadful evil. Does Government intend to wait till the bubble bursts again, till more human lives are sacrificed. Of course, respectable and *bona fide* landlords are, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion and above slur.

BOMBAYITE.

[Our correspondent is rather strong in places. We believe there is really only one inspector of buildings in this largely populated and wealthy colony of ours.—ED. D.P.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."  
21st August.

SIR,—Much has been said about the jerry-building in this Colony, but nobody has yet given the reason why such buildings were allowed, and are still progressing rapidly in their construction in every corner of the city, and in the narrowest streets, to the utmost danger both of the inmates and of the passers-by. In my humble opinion, money is the chief motive of all this corruption. Everybody is too selfish in making money, no matter what may



happen hereafter to others. As long as a landlord can have his property well paid, he will, on the least pretext, raise the rents higher and higher whenever he gets a chance, adding, too, one or two stories more on buildings, however old, in order to get more income. On the other hand the enormous crowd of brokers, so abundant in this Colony, come forward to persuade them to sell their properties, and offer them others instead, very often at an exceedingly high rate.

Who are, then, the sufferers? We all know them too well. And yet the Government seems blind to this state of affairs. Will "Scrutator" start a third series of his articles on this particular subject and bring to light all the existing corruption that is so prevalent in our days? He will do a great favour not only to the poor class of people who are struggling to get a decent abode, but to all the inhabitants of this Colony.

Thanking you for the insertion of the above, yours, etc.,

HUMANITAS.

#### AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."  
21st August.

SIR,—Kindly allow me a few lines in order to express on behalf of myself and other residents at Victoria View, Kowloon, our heartfelt gratitude to the gentlemen responsible for the erection of a handsome Chinese theatre so conveniently close to our homes. It is good in these days to see so much consideration displayed for the poor Chinese coolies and amahs residing in our midst; and the public spirit shown by the officers of the Madras Regiment, in allowing their excellent band to perform on the sea-front, has, we feel, been worthily emulated, and even surpassed—for while the Military Band only plays for two hours once a week, the Chinese orchestra pours forth sweet sounds "from early morn till dewy eve." We cannot too earnestly express our admiration and delight, when last Monday evening we discovered that the military band was accompanied by beautiful and entrancing Chinese music, now swelling majestically on the evening breeze, and anon dying in fitful wails of harmony. We note with pleasure that every care is taken of the edifice, and, lest some evilly disposed person should, in the fullness of his joy, attempt to add a bonfire to the attractions of the evening, a fire-engine is thoughtfully provided, in readiness for immediate use. There is one suggestion I should like to make: Could not a permanent theatre be erected in our garden, and the performance kept up all night, when it would be appreciated, instead of closing at the absurdly early hour of 11.30?—Yours, etc.,

OVERJOYED.

#### HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders in this Bank was held at noon on the 17th inst. in the City Hall, the Chairman, Mr. R. Shewan, presiding. Those present were:—Sir Thomas Jackson (chief manager), Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. P. Witkowski, A. J. Raymond, D. M. Moses, A. Haupt, N. A. Siebs, H. E. Tomkins, H. Schubart, R. L. Richardson, H. W. Slade (directors), Messrs. S. A. Joseph, R. C. Wilcox, J. H. Cox, F. Henderson, Captain Tillet, E. Georg, F. Maitland, C. S. Sharp, R. K. Leigh, J. A. Jupp, S. Hancock, C. Palmer, A. G. Wood, W. H. Potts, E. D. Sanders, J. C. Peter, V. C. Hawkins, K. A. Chinoy, J. A. Chinoy, G. C. C. Master, A. Sharp, D. A. Gubbay, H. M. H. Nemazee, G. L. Tomlin, E. Ezra, M. H. Michael, M. Stewart, W. Lyssaght, G. H. Medhurst, J. Berindoague, D. D. Guzdar, C. J. Gonsalvez, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shiu, Lau Wai Chun, Sam Kuni Sui, and others.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON read the notice convening the meeting, and

After reading the seventy-second report of the Court of Directors, which has already been published, the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The report just read represents a very prosperous state of affairs of the Bank. It is a matter for congratulation that recent unfortunate events in the North of China have

interfered so little with the ordinary profitable course of our business. It shows the great vitality of the China trade that we are able to present to you such a favourable report as the present one. Now that business in the North is gradually assuming normal conditions we can look forward to the future with much less anxiety than we have recently experienced. Taking advantage of the large figures we had to deal with we propose with your permission to add \$750,000 to the Silver Reserve Fund: we hope and think that our so doing will meet with the unanimous approval of all our friends. It is to be hoped and expected that the foreign trade of China will be a steadily progressing one. True, we may also expect powerful rivals to compete with us; indeed the competition in the future promises to be extremely keen, and the best way to meet such a state of affairs is to be in a strong financial position, and that we have steadily aimed at, with, as I hope you will admit, gratifying success. (Applause.) Turning to the figures of the report, "Notes in Circulation" are almost exactly the same as they were on the 31st December last, while "Fixed Deposits and Current Accounts" in both gold and silver show a moderate increase. "Bills Payable" show a decrease of over five-and-a-half millions of dollars; at the same time "Bills Receivable" show an increase of over six millions of dollars. The falling-off in the amount of "Bills Payable" is accounted for by the increasing amount of drawings being done by telegraphic transfer. "Cash" and "Bullion in hand and in transit" aggregate \$4,985,762, about the same as on the 31st of December last. Our holdings were largely in excess of our requirements at both dates owing to exceptional circumstances. The securities representing our sterling Reserve of one million pounds are almost exactly as stated in the previous report. Much as gilt-edged securities have fallen they still show a handsome margin on the lowest quotations recently touched. You will observe that for the sake of uniformity the £250,000 worth of 2½ per cent. Consols lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve are now entered at the same price as the rest of the 2½ per cent. Consols and the National War Loan, namely, at 90 instead of 95, as in previous accounts. The securities we hold under the heading of "Consols, Colonial, and other securities" were (where necessary) written down to the prices ruling on the 30th June; the aggregate amount is about £100,000 less than our holdings on the 31st December last and almost the same as on the 30th of June, 1900. "Bills Discounted, Loan and Credits" show an increase of over \$4,000,000 on the amount shown in the previous report. "Bank Premises."—The increase in this item has been caused mainly by the purchase of the freehold property adjoining our Shanghai office, which it was desirable to secure in view of future probable extensions which would have been impossible without securing the property alluded to. We are erecting new premises at our Kobe branch. I think I have touched on all the items in the report. I have pleasure in stating that the present half-year has had an extremely good start and promises well, but I cannot too strongly dwell on the duty of all directors of institutions like ours of building up our reserves and husbanding our resources for that proverbial rainy day which seems inevitable with all companies. We have had bad times and seem now to be enjoying the seven years of plenty, but we must not shut our eyes to the fact that these may be followed by less prosperous years for which we should therefore always stand prepared. Our field being mainly China, I may add a few remarks on the present situation in this country. There is no doubt that the heavy indemnity the Chinese will have to pay will try their finances severely, still I think that given a settled Government they will be equal to any engagements they may undertake. Fortunately for them they have remained upon a silver basis without resorting to any fictitious currency expedients, so that exchange will act automatically; with a low level it would be difficult to set bounds to the proportions the export trade of China might assume. One thing is certain—they will only be able to fulfil their engagements and pay the large balances against them by a steady excess of exports over imports. It was with extreme regret we re-

cently heard of the death of Mr. George Edward Noble, who joined the Bank at its start in Shanghai in the year 1865, and had been connected with us up to the time of his death, latterly as a member of the London Committee. Mr. Noble was a man whom to know was to love and esteem, and no higher encomium could be paid to any man. (Applause.)

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as read.

Mr. G. C. C. MASTER, in seconding, said:—Mr. Chairman, Sir Thomas Jackson and gentlemen.—I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Directors' Report and Accounts. I do not think that anyone can but consider that this report has been very satisfactory indeed. I think the wisdom of the Directors in building up a very strong reserve fund is certainly a very wise policy, and the best policy to adopt to check competition. The Chairman referred in his speech to the possibility of there being keen competition in banking in the future. I think that the Hongkong Bank, with the strong reserve fund they already have, in pursuing this policy must be able to drive all competitors from the field. Anyhow, if they cannot do that, they can afford to cut rates to such an extent that competitors will have to retire before the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. (Applause.) I think it is unnecessary to point out to you that the policy of building up an exceedingly strong reserve fund must be commended. I do not know whether I am in order in suggesting to the meeting that we might make Mr. Noble's widow some expression of sympathy. Mr. Noble was connected with this Bank for many years, and if such a suggestion were possible, I would beg to propose it. I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. C. PALMER proposed the confirmation of the appointment to the Court of Directors of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. H. E. Tomkins and Mr. H. Schubart.

Mr. S. HANCOCK seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen; thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready early on Monday.

Mr. A. G. WOOD—I beg leave to propose a vote of thanks to the Directors and the Chief Manager for the satisfactory report they have put before us to-day.

The vote was given cordially.

#### THE UNIVERSAL TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The first ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders of the above company was held on the 17th inst., at noon at the company's offices, No. 4, Des Vœux Road. There were present Mr. Ellis Kadoorie (chairman), Messrs. R. E. Kelly, Wong Chuck You, Chan Su Ki, Ip Lam Chuen, Lau Chu Pat and H. Moyer (secretary).

After the reading by the Secretary of the notice convening the meeting, the CHAIRMAN addressed those present as follows:—

Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some time, I shall, with your permission, take them as read. I trust you are all satisfied with the result of the year's working. Considering that this is the first year of the company's existence, we can congratulate ourselves that we have begun well, and let us hope that as time goes on, we shall improve our position and get even better results. The company's affairs are in a sound and prosperous condition, and there is nothing calling for special comment. If any shareholder has any question to ask, I shall be happy to answer it.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the reports and accounts.

The proposition was seconded by Mr. LAM CHU PAT and carried nem. con.

Mr. CHAN SUN KI proposed that Mr. W. H. Potts be re-elected auditor for the ensuing year, and was seconded by Mr. IP LAM CHUEN and carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, this is all the business before the meeting. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday. sign



## HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LD.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders was held in the offices of the company, Queen's Buildings, at noon on the 19th inst. Mr. R. Shewan, Chairman, presided, and there were present—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. C. P. Charter, C.M.G., Messrs. N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, D. E. Brown, P. Witkowski, H. P. White (Directors), L. Berindoague, H. M. S. H. Esmail, D. Craddock (attorney for Mr. C. Ford), J. McGregor Forbes, C. S. Sharp (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.), D. Haskell, J. Hastings, Ho Fook, Ho Kom Tong, E. H. Hinds, J. A. Jupp, J. J. Leiria, R. K. Leigh, Lo Cheung Shiu, P. de Champmorin (Messageries Maritimes), S. H. Michael, M. H. Michael, A. G. Morris, C. Palmer, H. Pinckney, C. H. Potts, R. H. Potts, G. W. F. Playfair, W. H. Purcell, F. Reid, R. L. Richardson, H. A. Ritchie, H. A. W. Slade, F. Smyth, W. M. Watson, W. H. Wickham, and T. I. Rose (Secretary.)

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—With your permission we will take the report and accounts which have been in your possession for some time past as read on this occasion. The result of the past six months' work is a most satisfactory one, and it affords your directors great pleasure to be able to lay before you the best record we have yet had. The amount available for appropriation, including \$256,757.20 brought forward from last year, is \$1,115,065.86, which we propose to distribute in a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 8 per cent., absorbing \$451,000 (against \$312,500 last August), by writing \$181,370.71 off the value of Kowloon and Cosmopolitan Docks, \$4,000 off steam-lunches, &c., and by carrying forward \$459,695.15. The dividend and bonus is \$137,500 more than we paid the same time last year, though we only propose to write off about \$55,000 less than we did then. It may appear to some shareholders that we write off too much, but the wear and tear and loss by depreciation of plant and machinery in such a business as ours is very great indeed, and when all is said and done you will notice that the value of Kowloon Docks will still stand at \$1,700,000, as against \$1,600,000 last December, so that in fact their book value has risen \$100,000. As we have no reserve fund and cannot have one except on paper until we are out of debt, we propose to keep something in hand by carrying forward more than usual to the credit of the next account. We are in debt to our bankers some \$300,000 which will be increased on payment of the dividend of \$450,000 to about \$750,000 and it must be our constant aim to reduce this indebtedness until the balance inclines the other side. This we can only do by writing off more of our profits than we spend on improvements; if not, our debts will increase until we are compelled at last to raise fresh capital to pay them off, a step of course we should be very loth to resort to. The money spent on improvements has, however, I am glad to say, been money well spent as is proved by the increased efficiency and greater facilities for the work now provided at the Docks. The negotiations with the Government for the acquisition of land for a new and larger dock which have dragged their slow length along for years past, appear at last to give some signs of approaching a conclusion. The great stumbling block, the right of preemption claimed by the Navy, has been overcome, and the questions now at issue are more or less of a minor character, though still of quite sufficient importance in themselves. Your directors are very fully alive to the great importance of pushing on with the new dock as fast as possible, and will endeavour in any possible way consistent with your interests to bring this matter to a settlement in accordance with our views. The want of a new and larger dock is fully exemplified by the case of the steamship *München*. In ordinary times we would have willingly competed for the repairs of this boat, but our large docks were so fully engaged that we had to let the business go past us. The work would have taken at least four months, and we could not afford to let one of Hongkong's largest docks be engaged for such a long time out gravely inconveniencing our

regular business. As you see in the report, Mr. Gillies has resigned the post he has so ably filled for many years past. His successor, Mr. Dixon, comes to us with first-class credentials, and we have every reason to believe he is well qualified for the position of chief manager of this company. While on this subject I may take the opportunity of recording the fact that the hearty thanks of the shareholders are due to Sir Andrew Noble, Mr. William Keswick, and Mr. J. L. Houston, for the very valuable assistance they have given us at home in selecting someone to succeed Mr. Gillies. As to the present six months it is not well to prophesy unless you know. I can only say that the returns for July are satisfactory, although at the moment work is rather slack and the Docks by no means so full as they might be. Before proposing the adoption of the report and passing the statement of accounts, I will be happy to answer any questions you may desire to ask.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts, as submitted, be adopted and passed.

In seconding, Mr. C. S. SHARP said:—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution just proposed for the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts. It is no small achievement to have topped the already splendid records shown by this company, and let us hope that we have not reached high-water level even yet. I have no doubt the accounts and proposed distribution of available profits will be considered satisfactory by shareholders, providing as they do for a larger amount for dividend than for the corresponding period of last year and for satisfactory writings off and carrying forward of a comfortable sum. You have adduced what appears to me to be sound reasons for the proposed writings off and carrying forward. I think that shareholders, in their natural desire for fine dividends, may at times lose sight of other considerations which make it important if not necessary for a company to retain a large proportion of its profits for its accommodation in carrying on its business, and personally, I should be sorry to see this company run into debt for more than what to it must be a nominal sum, specially with so much capital expenditure still ahead of us, even though this may mean to us the curtailing for a time of dividend distributions. It is good news to hear that the difficulties which have hitherto been standing in the way of the new dock project are now in a fair way of being overcome, and we shall all be glad to hail the day when a satisfactory arrangement has been made, and this new and important work can actually be proceeded with. (Applause.) The retirement of Mr. Gillies from the chief management will be felt by all as a loss, a great loss to the company, for he has been so long identified with the company's business and its upward progress. However, his long and meritorious services need no eulogium from me. We can only hope of his successor that he may emulate the record of recent years. (Applause.) If I am not out of order, I would like here to express what I feel sure is present in the minds of us all, namely our sincere sympathy with our acting manager, Mr. Cooke, under the serious illness which has overtaken him, and our earnest hope that he may be speedily restored to health and strength again. (Applause.) I have much pleasure in seconding.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN:—The next business, gentlemen, is the consideration of the testimonial to be presented to Mr. D. Gillies, and as that is a delicate matter I do not think it should be discussed in public. With your permission I will ask the reporters to withdraw.

This was agreed to, and the question was discussed privately.

We are informed that at the private meeting the Chairman, on behalf of the Directors, submitted a proposal to present Mr. Gillies with a cheque for £5,000. After considerable discussion, in the course of which it was pointed out that Mr. Gillies had served the Company faithfully for 26 years, and was in great measure responsible for its present prosperity, it was decided by a large majority to authorise the Directors to present to Mr. Gillies a handsome piece of plate, of a value not exceeding £1,000.

## GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

At an extraordinary general meeting recently held of preference shareholders in this company, in liquidation, the following resolution was passed:—"That in lieu of making a call, the preference shareholders do accept the proposal of the liquidator to divide the available assets among them." A confirmatory meeting was held on the 20th inst. at the company's offices, 4, Des Voeux Road, when there were present Messrs. M. Bennecke (liquidator), R. C. Wilcox, E. Georg, C. Georg, E. Kadoorie, F. Silva, J. C. Remedios, C. E. Osmund, and K. Dulji.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX, who was elected to the chair, explained the purpose of the meeting and read the resolution to be confirmed. He concluded—Mr. Bennecke, the liquidator, has been enabled to obtain the signatures of by far the larger number of the shareholders, and has what he considers a sufficient majority. He will speak for himself.

Mr. BENNECKE—The only remark I have to make is that I could not find a single Chinese shareholder. Their addresses were not to be found, so I could not get their signatures to the agreement.

CHAIRMAN—You have got nearly all the others, I believe?

Mr. BENNECKE—The owners of 27,000 shares have affixed their signatures.

Mr. C. GEORG—How many shares are there altogether?

Mr. BENNECKE—There are 49,261, so that there is a majority of nearly 3,000.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. EDULJI, the resolution was unanimously confirmed.

CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. The liquidator will give notice presently of a meeting at which will be presented a statement of account and at which you will be asked to decide as to the disposal of the balance, and also of the books and other properties of the company. For myself, I believe Mr. Bennecke will then resign, and will ask you to make some provision for anything else that may transpire in connection with any balance that may remain. He has already concluded an engagement to go to Saigon. That is all, gentlemen; thank you for your attendance. Due notice of the next meeting will be given.

## HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders was held at noon on the 21st inst. at the Company's Hotel. Mr. E. Osborne (Chairman) presided, and there were present Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, and W. Parfitt (Directors), W. Davis, W. D. Craddock, E. Kadoorie, W. A. C. Cruickshank, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shui, Ho Kom Tong, Chan Chan Nam, Sang Kee, Ho U Shang, and C. Mooney (Secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission, I will dispense with the reading of the report. The profits for the past half-year have more than fulfilled our expectations, and we are able, after providing liberally for depreciation and repairs, and after adding a substantial sum to reserve, to recommend a dividend of 12 per cent., which we hope will afford you satisfaction, and should you approve our recommendations, the reserve fund will then stand at \$90,000. Besides this, however, a very substantial sum is represented by 12,124 feet of land on the Reclamation, which, though standing in the books at \$21,000 odd, is, we consider, worth \$20 a foot or \$240,000, and at this valuation although it does not appear so in the accounts, you actually have a reserve of over \$300,000, which, on a capital indebtedness of \$825,000, means that your finances are in a thoroughly sound and healthy condition. The question of utilising this land has occupied the attention of your Board for some time past, and we intend shortly to submit definite proposals concerning it, which, while not involving a large outlay, will enable us to retain possession of the land and,



at the same time, earn a profitable return on its present market value. If there are any questions, I shall be pleased to answer them.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN therefore proposed the adoption of the report and accounts, submitted.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have very much pleasure in seconding the proposal that the past accounts and report for the half-year be adopted. I think we ought to congratulate the directors on the satisfactory result of the working of the company for the half-year. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Ho Fook proposed the re-election to the Board of Directors of Mr. R. C. Wilcox.

Mr. KADOGBIE seconded, and the motion was carried, *nem. con.*

The next business was the appointment of auditors for the ensuing half-year, and Mr. DAVIS asked if Mr. Gaskell was eligible for re-election in view of the statement that he was a director of another hotel company here.

The CHAIRMAN—We took the precaution of asking Mr. Gaskell, seeing that his name had been mentioned as a probable director of the new hotel at Craigieburn, whether he intended to offer himself for re-election for the present half-year, and he replied in writing that he did intend to offer himself.

Mr. DAVIS thought that if Mr. Gaskell was to be a director of another company he certainly should not be auditor of the Hongkong Hotel Company. He would probably be in a position then to secure information which he might utilise for the benefit of the other company.

Mr. WILCOX—He cannot act as director for another company until that company is formed.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Gaskell has suggested that it is a very open question whether the new Craigieburn Hotel will be started as a company. However, this is a matter not for the directors, but for the shareholders, and the directors leave it in the hands of the shareholders. I think you might consult together for a few minutes and let us know what your wishes are. They could then be put to the meeting.

After a brief consultation amongst the shareholders, Mr. DAVIS, seconded by Mr. CRUICKSHANK, proposed that Mr. Fullerton Henderson be appointed auditor in place of Mr. Gaskell, should he be willing to act, and that Mr. W. H. Potts be re-elected as auditor.

This was carried unanimously.

The Chairman—That is all the business, gentlemen; thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning, if you will kindly apply for them.

The following is the report:—

Gentlemen,—In accordance with section 56 of the Articles of Association, the directors now beg to submit their report for the half-year ended the 30th June, 1901.

#### ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working account for the six months amounted to \$125,101.02, as compared with \$100,796.98 for the corresponding period of 1900, being an increase of \$24,304.04.

The profit and loss account, including the sum of \$698.29 brought forward from 31st December, 1900, shows a credit balance of \$119,407.30, which your directors propose to apportion as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 12 per cent. for the half-year, absorbing ..	\$72,000.00
To write off from value of furniture and fixtures .. .. .	10,000.00
To set aside against repairs and renewals .. .. .	10,000.00
To transfer to reserve fund .. ..	17,000.00
To carry forward to new account ..	10,407.30
	<b>\$119,407.30</b>

#### DIRECTORS.

Mr. R. C. Wilcox retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

#### AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell, who offer themselves for re-election.

EDWARD OSBORNE,  
Chairman.

Hongkong, 14th August, 1901.

The following are the accounts:—

#### BALANCE-SHEET.

30th June, 1901.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital—			
12,000 shares at \$50 each (fully paid up)		600,000.00	
1,000 mortgage debentures, authorised, issued at \$500 each .. .. .	500,000.00		
Less 550 ditto not issued .. .. .	275,000.00		
		225,000.00	

Accounts payable .. .. .	21,930.00
Unclaimed dividends .. .. .	2,588.00
Reserve fund .. .. .	73,000.00
Profit and loss account .. .. .	119,407.30
	<b>\$1,041,925.39</b>

#### ASSETS.

Value of land and buildings as per last report:—		\$	c.
Marine lot No. 5 and remaining portion of marine lot No. 3 .. .. .	372,045.60		
Remaining portion of marine lot No. 7 .. .. .	363,108.20		
Praya reclamation .. .. .	21,291.77		
		761,445.57	

Value of furniture and fixtures as per last report ..	106,296.59
Less written off, as recommended in last report ..	3,000.00
	<b>\$103,296.59</b>
Since added .. .. .	2,684.06
	105,980.65

Stock of linen, crockery & glassware, &c. ..	39,620.11
Stock of wines, provisions, household sundries, coal and stationery .. .. .	29,669.24
Shares in public companies .. .. .	7,033.81
Licenses attaching to 31st December, 1901 ..	469.50
Fire insurance to 31st December, 1901 ..	1,766.05
Steam launch .. .. .	13,100.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation .. .. .	62,698.01
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, No. 2 account .. .. .	2,621.70
Cash in hand .. .. .	258.07
Accounts receivable .. .. .	17,262.68
	<b>\$1,041,925.39</b>

#### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the six months ending 30th June, 1901.

Dr.		\$	c.
To bad debts and refunds .. .. .		25.35	
To rates .. .. .		2,832.38	
To half-year's interest on debentures (\$225,000 at 3 per cent.) .. .. .		6,750.00	
To fire insurance .. .. .		1,739.95	
To Crown rent .. .. .		478.00	
To directors' and auditors' fees .. .. .		3,200.00	
To repairs and renewals account .. .. .		1,874.75	
To balance, to be appropriated as follows:—			
To pay a dividend of 12 per cent. for the half-year, absorbing .. .. .	72,000.00		
To write off furniture and fixtures .. .. .	10,000.00		
To set aside against repairs and renewals .. .. .	10,000.00		
To place to reserve fund .. .. .	17,000.00		
To carry forward to new account .. .. .	10,407.30		
		119,407.30	
		<b>\$136,308.63</b>	

Cr.		\$	c.
By balance from 31st Dec., 1900 ..	\$83,698.29		
Less dividend at 10 per cent. .. .. .	60,000.00		
Less transfer to reserve fund .. .. .	15,000.00		
Less set aside for repairs & renewals ..	5,000.00		
Less written off furniture and fixtures ..	3,000.00		
	<b>83,000.00</b>		
		698.29	

By rents of shops and offices, new building .. .. .	3,070.00
By rents of shops and offices, old building .. .. .	6,120.00
	<b>9,190.00</b>

By dividend on shares .. .. .	524.00
By scrip and transfer fees .. .. .	58.00
By unclaimed dividends forfeited .. .. .	215.50
By bad debts recovered .. .. .	82.10
By interest account .. .. .	439.72
By profit on hotel working account for the six months ending 30th June, 1901 ..	125,101.02
	<b>\$136,303.63</b>

#### REPAIR AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To payment on account of repairs and renewals during the half-year ending 30th June, 1901 .. .. .		9,143.95	
		<b>9,143.95</b>	
Cr.		\$	c.
By balance forward from 31st Dec., 1900 ..		2,269.20	
By transfer from profit and loss account as recommended in last report .. .. .		5,000.00	
By profit and loss account .. .. .		1,874.75	
		<b>\$9,143.95</b>	

#### REVIEW.

*China and the Allies*, by HENRY SAVAGE-LANDOR. London: William Heinemann.

WE are indebted to Messrs. Kelly & Walsh Ltd. for a copy of the latest work of this well-known traveller and author. It consists of two bulky volumes, containing much letterpress and many illustrations, mostly of photographs of the indifferent "snap-shot" type, and several reprints of excellent water-colour sketches by the author. The book is the largest and most comprehensive that has yet appeared on the Boxer rising and the subsequent operations of the Allied Powers. In fact, it is almost too much detail for the average reader to tackle, however keen his interest may be in the recent upheaval of the Celestial Empire. Mr. Savage-Landor's experience as a traveller is widely known; he is a keen observer, and a narrator of much ability. He does not always impress Eastern residents with being as accurate as he might be, not that he can be charged with exaggeration but that his opinion and description are sometimes influenced by passing impressions of men, institutions and surroundings, which are prejudicial to an exact representation. The books on the subject he now deals with are numerous, and they are multiplying; they are mostly made up of personal reminiscences, and Mr. Landor would have done better had he confined himself to one half of his book which contains his experiences and left the balance, which he has written from hearsay, to others more qualified to deal with it. He has also reprinted a good deal of the Blue-book on Events in China, and other matters, and interpolated a long account of a journey he made to the Great Wall some years ago. Had Mr. Landor confined himself to actual experiences and included them in one volume of moderate proportions, he would have shown much wisdom, and propitiated his readers. It must not, however, be deduced from this that his book is of small worth; on the contrary it forms a valuable addition to that rapidly-increasing library on modern China, and will give to the reader a good, if much detailed, conception of events beginning with the Boxer revolt and ending with its retribution. It will reveal the actual conditions of the Chinese masses and the missionaries in the interior and their relative positions, the ways of the mandarin, and the duplicity of the Chinese Government in their transactions with foreigners. The siege of Tientsin, the advance on Peking, and the heroic defence of the Legations are presented in readable if verbose form; but the interest of the reader is sustained by the innumerable photographs of incidents connected with these historical events. Consequently Mr. Landor's book is one that should be read, and as much as possible of it be remembered.

In his opening chapters, the author deals with the Boxer rising, availing himself extensively of Sir Claude Macdonald's correspondence on the subject, previously published as a blue-book. Mr. Landor holds the Buddhist monks responsible for the Boxer rising, alleging that it was the outcome of the promulgation of "the diabolical propaganda" of the Buddhist priests. This may be true to an extent; in fact many Chinese are inclined to the same opinion, but the author is evidently very much incensed against these native priests on account of previous harsh treatment he received at their hands. The Buddhist priests may have stirred up much enmity amongst the ignorant peasantry against foreigners, and missionaries in particular, but it cannot be accepted with that importance Mr. Landor seeks to place upon it. In endeavouring to secure facts to support this theory, the author goes too far in stating:—

Incidentally it is well to mention that in Canton alone, during the two months preceding the outbreak of hostilities, over 2,000 executions took place of Chinese belonging to the Reform party, or who had pro-foreign tendencies.

This is altogether inaccurate. H.E. Li Hung-chang when he assumed the reins of office at Canton beheaded bad characters wholesale, but these were not of "pro-foreign tendencies"—unless of the bushranger type; those beheaded were all robbers or pirates. Mr. Landor pays a well-deserved tribute to the French Minister at Peking, who was "almost the only one of the foreign



Representatives at Peking who had reliable information and attached the right importance to it." The French Minister was, of course, kept well advised by Bishop Favier, who is certainly the best informed man on current Chinese affairs in Peking. Mr. Landor does not regard Sir Claude Macdonald in the same light, and does not hesitate to charge him with having "always believed and concurred in the views of the last person who spoke to him, especially when he was misinformed." Mr. Landor no doubt has strong support for such a charge or he would not make it, but he does not give his authority, and he was not in Peking at the time. Sir Claude Macdonald was not the only minister who was misled, and he was unfortunate in not having an adviser of such magnificent resourcefulness of information as his French colleague possessed. In the estimation of most people in China, Sir Claude Macdonald did well, under the circumstances; had he known the Chinese character more intimately, he undoubtedly would have done better.

Mr. Landor gives a detailed account, familiar to our readers, of the tragic exodus of the Belgian engineers and their families from Paotingfu, and describes the Seymour relief expedition, the capture of the Taku forts and the siege of Tientsin. His description of the looting scenes that were daily enacted in Tientsin is excellent, and he takes a sensible view of the matter. He says:—

It is difficult to decide whether looting is at any time right or wrong, but in all fairness it must be kept in mind that the case of Tientsin was a special one. The main portion of the city was already on fire, most of the houses had already been broken into and looted by the Boxers, and presently everything that remained would be destroyed by the flames. It certainly seemed a pity to let so much beautiful and valuable property be wasted. Was it not, then, the lesser evil to allow these men, who had fought hard, to reap what benefit they could from the misfortune of others, especially since "the others" were doomed to misfortune in any case? To prevent looting was impossible. The authorities, therefore, seemed to have followed the only sensible line by giving the soldiers and marines a day's free hand.

The accounts of the looting published in England and America were not accurate, and seemed to be mostly written by persons who had some ulterior motive in shewing the soldiers of some one nation or another at their worst. I maintain that, if looting is to be looked upon as a crime, the soldiers of all nations, none excepted, disgraced themselves alike. The Russian, the American, the Japanese, the French, all looted alike. They one and all were looters of the very first water. I say it and I maintain it. But on the other hand, I cannot see that in this particular case of the Chinese war, looting was a criminal offence. On the contrary, it was the only way by which the natives could be punished for their outrages on our men, women, and children; and, degrading as it may seem to those who had no chance of taking part in it, there is no doubt that the only portion of this war which will cause the Chinese some future reflection will be the burning and looting of Tientsin.

Those who know the Chinese well will realise the truth of the last few lines, and further when he points out that

It was a constant remark among the Allied officers that China would be a paradise if one could keep the Chinese in the same behaviour that they displayed after their defeat. They bowed and "chin-chinned" to every "foreign devil" that went by, those sitting down springing upon their feet each time that a soldier passed. Tea and cold water were served out to anybody who wanted it, and the stolid, blunt Chinaman behaved to everybody with a civility never before shown by the sons of the Heavenly Empire.

Mr. Landor is of opinion that taking things all round the Chinese themselves were the people who mostly benefitted by the looting. He says:—

There were crowds of them outside every house where looting went on, and they sneaked in and out carrying away valuable things. They had the advantage of knowing where to find them. Even Boxers and Imperial soldiers had hastily thrown off their uniform coats, and returned to the city disguised as coolies or peaceful citizens. Their greed was disgusting, and among themselves they acted like wild beasts. . . . The Chinese whom one saw in Tientsin soon after its fall were ruffians of the very first water. Their faces alone were a sufficient certificate. What ghastly, murderous expressions were concealed under the

servile, submissive manner towards every European that went by!

Describing the national characteristics of the looters, he pictures a party of British, as follows:—

"My! won't my girl be happy when she sees all this?" was the very first thought of Tommy and Jack about the loot. "She'll know right enough what to do with it all." All the pockets of Tommy and Jack were soon stuffed to bursting with silver-gilt combs, small carvings, hairpins, elaborate ornaments for the hair, and silver charms of all kinds and sizes, of which Chinese chests of drawers were brimful. It was interesting to watch them, the younger ones especially, loot, loot, loot, not for themselves, but for the friends and relations at home.

The Japanese somewhat resembled the British in their methods, but

The point where a marked difference lay between the two was in the true and keen artistic sense of the beautiful inborn in the sons of the Mikado's empire, and altogether absent in the British Tommy. All that was ancient, refined in line and taste, or pleasing to the eye in colour, had for a Japanese more fascination than anything of ten times its intrinsic value. I went into a house that had been entered by a couple of Japanese privates. They had found a cabinet of old china, and each soldier was revolving in his supple fingers a cup or a vase or a dish, and carefully examining the design.

"Kekko neh" ("How lovely"), exclaimed one soldier, looking into the work with the eye of a connoisseur.

"Sajo deska; taihenjoso" ("Yes, indeed; first rate"), announced his neighbour, drawing in his breath in sign of admiration, while he tried to decipher the mark on the bottom of each cup. And here a long conversation began on the age of the crockery, how graceful in shapes, how fine in texture and make each piece was, and how skilful the artist that painted it. And here comes the principal point of my story. Such was their admiration for the wares they handled, that, instead of smashing them, as less artistic troops did those articles that could not be carried away, these Japanese soldiers carefully replaced each article on its shelf.

The American soldier was somewhat different—

What did he care for works of art? He had heard that some of the porcelain was worth large sums, but he really could not tell a 5-cent teapot from a 1,000 dollar one. All that he looked for in the houses of rich "Chinos," as he conveniently called the Chinese, was gold bar, or silver, the latter for choice, in four and a quarter pound lumps (sycee). If he could not get gold or silver, he preferred to have nothing, but he looked and looked until he generally found what he wanted.

Mr. Landor devotes several chapters to the missionary question, and details the terrible sufferings of those unfortunate men, women and children who were martyred in the interior. The author apparently takes it for granted that the many Chinese officials who ill-treated, imprisoned, tortured and murdered these defenceless people, or gave them over to the brutal and murderous mobs to do with them as they desired, have all been adequately punished, but we very much doubt, and in fact feel convinced, that not only do many of these scoundrels still go unpunished, but that they still hold office. This is confirmed by the experience of Major Pereira on his recent mission, when he found a Chinese official who had handcuffed refugee missionaries, and who was supposed to have been banished into exile, actually holding office! It should be the duty of the Ministers to see that the whole of these guilty officials are actually punished. Mr. Landor pays a well-deserved tribute to the Rev. Timothy Richards, who, he thinks, "has done more practical good in China than probably any other missionary in the country." In his very strong comparison between Mr. Richards and missionaries in general, the author overlooks one fact, namely, that the work of the former is mainly literary; he is chiefly engaged in publishing in Chinese standard foreign works, and his occupation naturally predisposes the educated Chinese in his favour. It is not the lot of the average missionary to meet only the native literati, or engage in such interesting and attractive work, which, perhaps, in many cases is just as well.

The author endorses an opinion to which we have frequently given vent, though we are much afraid the responsible heads of missions, in their zeal, are not likely to act upon it. He refers to

The criminal error of despatching to dangerous and lonely places in the interior of China, without protection or assistance, young, inexperienced girls who have a most imperfect knowledge of the country, the language, and the customs and manners of the natives.

It is great men and women with powerful brains—the greatest; we have, if any at all—that ought to be sent out, not those for whom we can find no use at home. . . . As for women, the wives of missionaries might be allowed to accompany their husbands, but I maintain that it is criminal to send young women into the interior, where they can do little good, and are helpless in case of danger.

Most people, who are not blinded by religion, will agree with him, and those who have a knowledge of the interior will understand that it is absolutely indelicate for any young, well nurtured women to reside in the interior and engage in mission work, and such indelicacy is emphasised when they acquire a knowledge of the language. By preventing the women and children, and most certainly we think the latter—who are not free agents—the author points out that

Shocking outrages, such as have occurred in the Boxer trouble, would be prevented or greatly minimised; huge sums of money, now absolutely waste, could be spared to do good at home, where it is more needed than in China, and much unnecessary friction could be prevented, making the relations of heathens and foreign devils infinitely pleasanter.

Mr. Landor discusses the soldiers of the different nationalities at some length. It will be remembered that he was compelled to attach himself to the Japanese, and he naturally depicts the doings of these excellent soldiers most. He was more impressed with the Japanese than the other allies, and after them he puts the Russians. Other correspondents have put the latter last, though all are unanimous in according the Japanese a front place as soldiers in the North-China campaign. The author says that whilst other nationalities collapsed in hundreds, he never saw a single Russian soldier fall out of the ranks. His statement is courteous but of little value, because being with the Japanese he could not be with the Russians or other allies, nor is his statement substantiated by the recently published Russian report on the campaign. Comparisons are apt to be odious, and they are certainly unnecessary when the author is unable to do justice to all from actual experience of each. In numerous instances the author's judgment is too hasty and too sweeping, and he frequently errs from want of knowledge of the country and the people, and having to rely on the impressions of others. Yet his book is certainly very interesting and for the most part accurate, and few will deny his ability as a graphic and entertaining writer. His second volume is made up of the entry of the allied forces into Peking and a lengthy description of the siege of the legations and the Peitang Cathedral on information supplied by those who experienced those tragic events.

Mr. M. Kato, the Japanese Consul, courteously informs us that eight Japanese seamen were recently rescued and brought to this port by the British transport *Chingtu*, which arrived in the harbour on the 13th inst. from Taku. They were taking a barge of about 150 tons from Osaka to Keelung in Formosa, when they met with a typhoon on the 1st inst. off the coast of the island of Okinawa, the largest of the Loochoo group. The barge had been drifting on the open sea for eight days when on the morning of the 9th August, the *Chingtu* met her at 32 deg. 14 min. N. 123 deg. 55 min. E. about 100 miles from Shanghai, and rescued the men. She was stripped of sails, mast and everything on the deck, and the food and water were nearly exhausted. The rescued men spoke very pathetically of the kindness of Capt. Williams, the officers and the men of the transport, as well as the officers and men of the British troops who were travelling on board her. Capt. Williams was very indignant at the conduct of a steamer with black hull and yellow funnel which is reported by the Japanese seamen to have passed the disabled barge, but to have coldly steamed away two days before the *Chingtu* met her.



## SUPREME COURT.

Thursday, 15th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH  
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CAPTAIN TREFUSIS V. KWOK KONG.

The following is the full text of the judgment delivered by His Honour in the above case:—

Early in July last an Arab chestnut gelding valued at thirty guineas and owned by Commander Erskine, R.N., arrived in the colony on board the transport *Nurani*.

The plaintiff in this action had been asked by the owner to land the animal here, to see it placed in stables and to look after it until the owner arrived.

The plaintiff was therefore the agent of the owner to land the animal, and under the circumstances had authority to delegate his functions in this respect.

He accordingly asked Major Koe, A.S.C., to arrange for the landing of the animal. That officer instructed one Fuckeera to engage a junk to take a pony off the transport *Nurani* for Captain Trefusis, the plaintiff. Fuckeera ordered his storeman Atai to engage a boat in the following words:—"Hire a boat to go to the troopship to land a horse. First you must go to the Commissariat to take the horse-box on board." The storeman Atai's version of the orders given by Fuckeera was as follows:—"Go and engage a second-class cargo-boat to go to the Commissariat pier to take a horse-box on board and take it to a ship and take delivery of a horse. When the boat comes back she has to land the horse on the wharf. Cord, rope and tackle are to be theirs."

In pursuance of his orders, Atai engaged the cargo-boat of the defendant on the following terms, viz., that the boat was to go to the Commissariat pier, to take a horse-box on board, to put off (to a ship), to convey a horse back to the Commissariat (pier), to land the horse on the pier, and to employ her own tackle and rope: when every thing had been done properly, the reward was to be four dollars and a half.

I accept this version of the terms of the contract made by Atai and reject the version given by the witness Ch'an Ts'at-mui, the wife of the owner of the cargo-boat and the person by whom the contract was made, on behalf of her husband, the defendant.

Such a contract having been made, the question is, was the plaintiff privy to it?

The parties who made the contract were clearly Atai of the one part and Ch'an Ts'at-mui of the other part.

It is also clear from the evidence that Atai was not as a fact contracting on his own behalf, but on behalf of a principal whose existence was, however, not disclosed by word of mouth to Ch'an Ts'at-mui, though the circumstances sufficiently indicated to her that Atai was merely an agent for an unnamed principal.

Who, then, was the unnamed principal for whom Atai was contracting?

Now, an agent is a person duly authorised to act on behalf of another, and the person from whom the authority in derived is called the principal. The answer to the last question depends, therefore upon the answer to the question, Who authorised Atai to make the contract? and the answer to that question is that it was Fuckeera who authorised Atai to make the contract.

There is no evidence to show that Atai knew, either from being told by Fuckeera or from other sources, that the animal was being landed at the ultimate request of Trefusis. His mind was a blank about Trefusis. Of him he knew nothing and of him he never thought. He never intended to treat Trefusis as his principal nor to make a contract on his behalf. Fuckeera was the person whom he had in mind as the party for whom he was making the contract: Trefusis was never contemplated by Atai as being his principal. No man can contract for a principal whom he had not in mind at the time when the contract was made. Accordingly I come to the conclusion that there was no privity of contract established between the plaintiff and the defendant in this action. Mr. Hastings used the following illustration in

support of his contention that privity did exist. He compared the chain of orders given in this case with the chain of orders given in a mercantile firm. For example, a *taipan* of A. B. & Co. gives an order to a clerk, who transmits the order to the comprador, who instructs a coolie, who engages a cargo-boat. In such a case, is or is not privity of contract established between A. B. & Co. and the owner of the cargo-boat? Something might depend on the exact wording of the order as it was passed from man to man, and on the knowledge of the coolie who made the contract. It would be a matter of inference whether he knew at the time of contracting that A. B. & Co. were his principals. Probably the inference would be that he knew that his principals were A. B. & Co. But suppose that that coolie met an independent person who did not know that the coolie was acting on behalf of A. B. & Co. and that independent person engaged a cargo-boat; in such a case would there be privity of contract between A. B. & Co. and the boat owner? I venture to say no.

In the example adduced by Mr. Hastings there was presumably knowledge throughout the chain that A. B. & Co. were the principals: in the present case the knowledge that the animal was being landed for the plaintiff stopped at Fuckeera and was not passed on.

Throughout this case, much has been said about the plaintiff having the status of a bailee, but I think that up to and at the time when the animal was killed, he had not acquired that status.

A bailment is a delivery of a thing in trust for some special object or purpose, and upon an undertaking expressed or implied to conform to the object or purpose of the trust.

The possession of the thing must be in the party by means of either an actual or a constructive delivery before such party can be a bailee.

Here the possession was in the defendant who had a lien on the thing, and until the thing was delivered to the plaintiff actually or constructively, no possession was in the plaintiff.

Nor was the plaintiff a consignee in the ordinary acceptation of that term as designating the person to whom goods are remitted as being the purchaser or for purposes of sale.

Assuming, however, that the plaintiff was not a mere agent, but either a bailee or a consignee, still I should hold that there was no privity of contract between the plaintiff in either capacity, and the defendant.

The property, whether general or special, in the animal was never in the plaintiff in any capacity: nor did he ever have the possession. This being so, has a person who has neither the property nor the possession a right of action of trespass on the case? The answer is in the negative.

The conclusion at which I arrive, therefore, is that the plaintiff cannot sue in contract because of lack of privity, and he cannot sue in tort because he had not either the property or the possession.

Should it become necessary to have my opinion on other points which have arisen in the case, I will state that, upon the authority of *Liver Alkali Company v. Johnson*, L. R. 7 Ex. 267, I consider that the defendant incurred the responsibilities of a common carrier with respect to the animal which he carried, was therefore liable as an insurer and was not relieved of that liability by any inherent vice in the thing carried.

The damages claimed in the shape of expenses incurred in floating the cargo-boat, and towing her down to Causeway Bay, as well as in burying the carcass, would in my judgment, be too remote in an action for damages for breach of contract. Their remoteness in an action in tort was not argued, and I express no opinion on that point.

The result is that judgment will be entered for the defendant with costs.

Friday, 16th August.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE  
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

COLLINS V. GIBSON.

In delivering judgment in the action of *Collins v. Gibson*, in which the plaintiff (*Collins*) laid a claim for \$2,000 damages for breach of agreement and for an injunction to restrain the defendant (*Gibson*) from carrying

on business as opposed to an agreement dated 2nd June, 1898, and signed by the parties, His Lordship said the evidence on both sides was extremely conflicting, and although it was true that the witnesses for the defence were more or less related to the defendant, by marriage and ties of kindred, and might reasonably be expected to be more than favourably disposed towards the defendant, yet, nevertheless, if he were to consider the case of the plaintiff as absolutely true as set forth in the pleadings and in the evidence, he must, on the other hand, hold that the witnesses for the defence were guilty of perjury. Taking, perhaps, the principal witness (excepting the plaintiff himself) for the plaintiff, Inspector Collett, who stated that the defendant *Gibson* had informed him that three-fourths of the capital in *Ramsay & Company* was his (*Gibson's*) own money, His Lordship said that in the face of the strong evidence given by witnesses for the defence—*E. F. Gibson*, *Mrs. Ramsay*, and *A. F. Ramsay*—he must come to the conclusion that Inspector Collett was mistaken. Judgment would therefore be entered for the defendant. But inasmuch as the defendant had acted somewhat indiscreetly by mixing himself up with the business of *Ramsay & Company* during and previous to the sickness of his sister-in-law, *Mrs. Ramsay*, no order as to costs would be made, His Lordship holding that the defendant had thus brought the action upon himself, and that the action was a proper one to be brought before the Court by the plaintiff.

Saturday, 17th August.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING  
CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATION FOR HABEAS CORPUS.

As already reported by us, Mr. E. H. Sharp, instructed by Mr. K. W. Mounsey, applied to His Lordship for a writ of *habeas corpus*, to be served on the Superintendent of Police of this colony, to produce *Leung Kun Yau*, alias *Leung A Su*, who was detained by the police under an order of banishment.

His Lordship made the writ returnable for Saturday, and when the Court assembled the writ was produced. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, and the Captain Superintendent were in attendance.

Mr. Sharp—I move, my Lord, that the prisoner be discharged, on the ground that the return is bad.

His Lordship—Is any one going to oppose this motion?

Mr. Bowley—No, my Lord. It is unnecessary to go into any question of law. Mr. May is here, and if your Lordship will allow him, he will make a statement.

His Lordship offering no objection, Mr. May said that in this matter the police dealt with the prisoner on his own statement. When he was arrested and again when he was discharged from gaol he claimed to be a native of China, and, Mr. May concluded, he personally had no knowledge or information till Friday morning that the prisoner was a native of Hongkong.

Mr. Sharp asked for costs, submitting that the police had shown the utmost carelessness in making their inquiries.

His Lordship discharged the prisoner, but made no order as to costs, holding that it was the man's own fault that he found himself where he was.

Monday, 19th August.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE  
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE)  
AND A JURY.

THE CALENDAR.

There were four cases down for trial—*Chan Po Kam*, alias *Chan Po*: (1) uttering a forged request, for delivery of goods with intent to defraud, (2) obtaining goods, upon a forged instrument—*Chu Kwai Lam*: manslaughter; *Ch'an Po Kam*, alias *Tang Cheong*: (1) uttering a forged request for delivery of goods with intent to defraud, (2) obtaining goods upon a forged instrument—*Lam Sheung*: being in



possession of three or more pieces of counterfeit King's silver coins with intent to defraud.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock, Acting Attorney-General, asked his Lordship to take case No. 2 (that of manslaughter), in which Mr. J. J. Francis, K. C., was to appear for the defence, at ten o'clock this (Tuesday) morning.

His Lordship agreed to the request.

Mr. Pollock intimated that a fifth case, one of piracy, had been added to the calendar, and on his suggestion it was included therein.

#### OBTAINING GOODS BY FALSE PRETENCES.

Chan Po Kam, alias Tang Cheong, was charged (1) with uttering a forged request for delivery of goods with intent to defraud, and (2) with obtaining goods upon a forged instrument. He pleaded not guilty on both counts.

The following jury was empanelled—Messrs. J. M. de Rocha, W. S. Brown, Y. C. dos Remedios, C. P. Pintos, A. O. Gutierrez, W. Stewart, W. S. Allan.

Mr. Pollock, in stating the case to the jury, said the evidence on behalf of the prosecution would show that on the 29th June of this year the prisoner went into the Kwun Cheung grocer's shop at 282, Des Voeux Road, and represented that he had been sent by the Kwong Wo shop at Samchun. At the same time he produced a letter (which would be exhibited in evidence) purporting to bear at the end of it the chop of the Kwong Wo shop, and requesting the master of the Kwun Cheung shop to hand the bearer twenty bags of flour and two bags of sugar. The master of the shop, not suspecting that anything was wrong, acted upon that letter, and the defendant got the goods. At the time defendant called—eight o'clock—the master of the shop was busy, and he asked the defendant to come back at twelve o'clock. On returning at that hour the defendant obtained delivery of the goods, which were carried by a *foki* from the shop to a boat on the Praya. The complainant—the master of the Kwun Cheung shop—had previously had dealings with the Kwong Wo shop at Samchun, and on 11th July he went to collect the money for the goods. It was then he learned that the goods had never been ordered. The defendant's defence was an *alibi*. His story was that on 26th June he went up to Canton, and did not return to Hongkong until 11th July.

Evidence was led, and the jury, without leaving the box, unanimously found the prisoner guilty on both counts of the charge.

Sentence was reserved until the second charge against the prisoner had been decided. The jury was dismissed.

#### THE SECOND CHARGE.

Chan Po Kam, alias Chan Po, was charged with (1) uttering a forged request for delivery of goods with intent to defraud, and (2) obtaining goods upon a false instrument. He pleaded not guilty on both counts.

The following jury was empanelled—Messrs. J. A. da C. V. Ribeiro, A. M. Beattie, T. Arnott, L. J. C. Anderson, A. S. Mihara, A. A. de Jesus, and A. Kühn.

Mr. Pollock said the evidence on behalf of the prosecution would show that on 29th June, about half-past eleven in the morning, the prisoner brought a letter purporting to come from the Kwong Fuk Tai shop at Samchun to the shop of one Chun Yau, 18, Saimun Lane, asking for 2,000 matbags—1,000 fine and 1,000 coarse. If sufficient bags were not in hand, 700 or 800 were to be forwarded. The complainant—the master of the shop in Saimun Lane—had no fine bags, and at the defendant's request sent 1,500 coarse bags down to the latter's boat at the Praya. The same thing happened as in the previous case—when the complainant went to collect the money he found that no order for the bags had been given by the Kwok Fuk Tai shop. The defendant was arrested on 28th July in a house at 111, Second Street by Sergeant Murison. The defendant had been employed for four months in the Kwok Fuk Tai shop, and had access to the chops, which he could easily copy for purposes of fraud.

After hearing evidence the jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty on both counts of the charge.

He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment—two years on each charge.

#### COUNTERFEIT COIN CASE.

Lam Sheung pleaded not guilty to the possession of 635 pieces of counterfeit King's silver coins, with intent to utter.

Mr. E. Robinson, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, solicitor) defended the prisoner.

The jury was the same as in the previous case.

Mr. Pollock said the principal witness for the prosecution was Lance-Sergeant Robert Smith, who, in the afternoon of the 2nd inst., went with a *lukong* on board the steam ferry-launch *Chuen Ching*, one of a number plying between Yaumati and West Point, and asked to see the collector. The defendant was pointed out, and on the lance-sergeant asking him he said he was the collector. Smith then asked the defendant how much money belonging to the company he had in his possession. Defendant in answer produced altogether \$5.20, and said that that was all. Smith thereupon searched him, and in his right-hand jacket pocket found a paper packet containing 35 Hongkong five-cent pieces and one Chinese five-cent piece. The defendant said he had no box when the question was put to him, but immediately afterwards produced two keys from his person and with one of them opened a locker in the cabin. In the locker Smith found 598 counterfeit Hongkong five-cent pieces wrapped in paper packages, 46 counterfeit Chinese ten-cent pieces, and 2 counterfeit Hongkong ten-cent pieces. The defendant was thereupon arrested.

Lance-Sergeant Smith gave evidence, and was cross-examined by Mr. Robinson.

Other evidence was led, after which Mr. Robinson addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner, contending that it had not been proved that he intended to utter the coins, nor that he had guilty knowledge in the matter.

After Mr. Pollock had replied, his Lordship summed up, and remarked that if the prisoner did not intend to utter the coins he must be regarded as a collector of curios.

The jury, without leaving the box, found the prisoner guilty. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Tuesday, 20th August.

#### IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A JURY.

#### MANSLAUGHTER.

Police Crown-Sergeant Chu Kwai Lam was placed in the dock on a charge of feloniously killing and slaying Wong Kau at Yaumati on 24th July. The prisoner, who is one of the oldest Chinese members of the Police Force, and wore the medal for meritorious conduct, pleaded not guilty. He was defended by Mr. J. J. Francis, K. C. (instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master, solicitor).

The following jury was empanelled—Messrs. J. J. Gutierrez, A. Reid, H. Cruz, T. S. Forrest, J. E. Hainsworth, E. V. M. R. de Souza, and J. M. dos Remedios.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock, Acting Attorney-General, stated the case to the jury. He said the defendant was a police sergeant, and had been somewhere about twenty years in the Police Force of this Colony. He was stationed at Yaumati, and on the 24th July was sent out to execute a warrant to arrest the deceased man on a charge of assault. The defendant entered a brothel in Temple Street, Yaumati, where he found the deceased and arrested him. On the way to the station, opposite another brothel in Temple Street, the deceased apparently wanted to return for his umbrella, which he had left behind. The evidence for the prosecution would show that at that juncture the defendant used violence, kicking the deceased on the body and striking him with his truncheon. Various witnesses would be called to prove this assault by the defendant, including one who saw the affair from the verandah of a house overlooking the street. That witness would depose that he heard groans, and that on going out to the verandah he saw the defendant holding the deceased by the queue. The latter pointed back and used the word "umbrella." Then this witness saw the defendant strike the deceased two blows with his fist, following these up by drawing his truncheon and dealing several blows with it on the deceased's

chest and shoulders. He also poked him with the truncheon, and kicked him in the region of the stomach. If the evidence of that witness could be believed, it would certainly appear that the defendant used unnecessary and unjustifiable violence. Of course, it was quite obvious that a police officer arresting a man must undoubtedly use what might be called a reasonable amount of compulsion to take that man to the police station, and it would be for the jury to decide whether or not the defendant had overstepped that line. The police station was reached about half-past four in the afternoon, and the deceased was lodged in a cell. At five o'clock, half an hour afterwards, groans were heard proceeding from the cell. The noise increased, and on Inspector Macdonald, in charge at Yaumati, making enquiries, the deceased emitted a certain statement. He was removed at nine o'clock from the police station to the Government Civil Hospital, where Dr. Bell examined him, but could find no specific injury. At five o'clock next morning the deceased was in a state of collapse, and he died at nine o'clock. Dr. Bell's evidence at the Police Court was to the effect that there did not seem much the matter with the deceased when he was admitted to the hospital. At 1 a.m. he complained of pains in the pit of the stomach, at 5 a.m. he was in a state of collapse, and at 9.30 a.m. he died. Dr. Bell made a post-mortem examination of the body. There were no external marks or wounds, and the internal organs were all healthy. The cause of death was shock caused by rupture of the small gut. A kick on the abdomen might have produced these symptoms. Cross-examined by Mr. Master, Dr. Bell said that if the defendant had punched the deceased severely with his truncheon, he (Dr. Bell) would have expected to find some external bruises. From the appearance of the body he should say that the deceased had not been severely struck on the chest and arms. That, concluded Mr. Pollock, was the whole story of the charge against the prisoner. Whether or not that charge was substantiated by facts would be for the jury to decide when they had heard the evidence.

Witnesses were then examined, and afterwards cross-questioned at length by Mr. Francis.

The evidence for the prosecution having concluded, several witnesses were called for the defence.

Mr. Francis afterwards addressed the jury on the prisoner's behalf in an able speech, the delivery of which occupied nearly an hour.

The Acting Attorney-General having replied, His Lordship summed up, and the jury retired.

They were absent for about five minutes, and on resuming their seats, the foreman announced that they were unanimous in finding the prisoner not guilty.

The defendant was thereupon discharged.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE) AND A JURY.

#### PIRACY.

Lam Shui Kum and Pun Wong pleaded not guilty to (1) piracy on the high seas, and (2) robbery by force of arms. Mr. E. Robinson, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), prosecuted on behalf of the Crown.

The following jury was empanelled—Messrs. T. Grimshaw, H. Gettins, V. C. Rozario, R. Menashih, T. M. Devillbiss, C. H. Thiel, and Chan He Wan.

Reviewing the facts of the case, Mr. Robinson said the piracy was committed on board a fishing sampan or junk, off a small island called San Chau, situated a little way beyond Castle Peak, in British waters. On board the junk were the owner, his father, his wife, and his son. On 22nd June, somewhere about ten o'clock at night, the defendants, accompanied by two other men, all of them carrying arms, boarded the junk, cleared the occupants out, took possession of the boat, and sailed away with it. Since that time the grandfather, an old man of eighty, had died, and there now remained but three people who could speak as to the piracy. The principal witness, the owner of the boat, had stated that they remained on the island of San Chau for two days, and then, hailing a passing boat, were taken off and placed on the island of Ling Tin. From there they made their way



to Tai O, where there is a police station, and where they reported the piracy. For several days the owner of the boat went about with the police trying to find his boat. He failed to trace its whereabouts in British waters, and went over to Macao to continue the search. There he at last found the boat, and in it four men. With the help of the Macao police the four men were arrested, and two of them were identified by the junk-owner and his wife as participants in the piracy. The four men were charged at the Magistracy and two discharged. The remaining two, the prisoners in the dock, denied that they were the guilty men, and also denied that the boat alleged by the complainant to be his boat was the one that was pirated. The question for the jury, therefore, concluded Mr. Robinson, was simply one of identification.

Evidence was led, after which the jury found the prisoners guilty on both counts.

His Lordship sentenced them to ten years' imprisonment each on the first count, and seven years' imprisonment each on the second count, the sentences to run concurrently.

### INTERPORT RIFLE MATCH.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR.

The Honorary Secretary of the Singapore Rifle Association communicates to the *Straits Times* that it has been decided to hold this year's Interport rifle match (which is not confined to any particular body, but to the best shots in the port, whether Military, Volunteer, Police or Civilian) between October 26th and November 8th. For the first time in the history of this annual competition, Penang will be included in the match, so that the four competitors will be Hongkong, Shanghai, Singapore, and Penang. The historic three-cornered match that has so far been in vogue thus develops into a four-cornered competition—and although this may not perhaps be unanimously approved, more especially by some of the old members of past years, yet it should be remembered that old fogeyism is not sport, and that the sole object of such a match is to promote the standard of rifle-shooting, and any arrangement that tends in that direction should be welcomed by rifle shots. We understand that it is intended to invite Ceylon to join in, but as the negotiations have not yet proceeded far enough, it is not likely that they will be able to shoot this year; although it is hoped that next year the match will be a five-cornered one.

This year the match will be fired under Bisley conditions, so that it will be possible to compare scores with those made at home this year. The conditions are:—

Range.	Targets.	Position prone.
200 yds.	3rd class	Bull 7 in. diam.
	4 ft. square	Inner 14 .. ..
		Magpie 21 .. ..
500 yds.	2nd class	Bull's eye 20 .. ..
	6 ft. square	Inner 30 .. ..
		Magpie 40 .. ..

### HONGKONG.

The re-appointment of Mr. Edward Osborne to be a member of the Sanitary Board is notified in the *Gazette*.

No enquiry will be held into the death of Lester Mansfield, who was a short time ago found dead in her room in Lyndhurst Terrace. Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer, has certified that death was due to alcoholic poisoning.

Two more bodies, making now a total of five, have been recovered out of the eight men who were drowned when the steam launch *Lee Sang* on the 17th inst. ran into and sank an Army Service Corps cutter coming from the hospital-ship *Meance*.

A few days ago Chan Hsung, master of No. 495 steam-launch *Hai Loong*, was fined \$3 for not registering his discharge in accordance with the regulation made by the Governor in Council, Merchants' Shipping Consolidated Ordinance of 1891.

The Siberian dogs for the German South Polar Expedition, which have recently been quartered at Mr. Kennedy's Horse Repository, were on the 20th inst. shipped for Sydney by the s.s. *Nuentung*. Thence they will accompany the members of the expedition on their voyage of discovery.

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen and his colleagues have a balance in hand from the Typhoon Fund of \$3,300, which they have been asked to use for the relief of the Surviving Sufferers of the Cochrane Street disaster. They will be obliged if the police or public will direct any of the survivors needing help, or poor dependants on those who were killed, to the Committee, who are willing to render prompt assistance.

The semi-final tie in the Water Polo Challenge Shield Competition between V.R.C. "A" team and "C" team, took place on the 22nd inst. at V.R.C., Kowloon, before a good attendance of spectators, amongst whom was a sprinkling of ladies. The game was very evenly contested. Two minutes or so from time "A" team were leading by one goal, but by a great effort "C" team managed to equalise, the score then being 5 goals each. Extra time was played; and the match finally ended in favour of "C" team by nine goals to six.

We received on the 19th inst. a visit from Mr. J. F. Anderson of Pomona, California, who is engaged in a five years' trip around the world, visiting every out-of-the-way place. He started in 1897 from his native city, travelled through every state in the Union, partly on foot, partly in a spring wagon, working at different places to earn the wherewithal to pay his travelling expenses. From New York in 1898 he went to Liverpool, bicycled through the British Isles, thence to Germany along the Rhine, and from there to Paris, where he worked for the U.S.A. Commission of the Paris Exhibition. After leaving Paris he went to Switzerland, crossed the Alps into Italy, and from thence to Greece. After leaving Athens he worked his way to Alexandria, toured through Egypt and Palestine, from thence to Port Said, where he took passage to Bombay. He visited Calcutta, and from there went to Singapore, whence he arrived yesterday. Mr. Anderson is a Christian Endeavourer, and makes this round-the-world journey to satisfy his thirst for information and study of men and things. He will visit the Philippines and Japan, and expects to arrive in San Francisco next December, completing his five years' tour.

On the 20th inst. there were buried in the Happy Valley the remains of Mrs Gibbs, one of the six original Nursing Sisters who arrived in the Colony in the winter of 1890 for the service of the Government Civil Hospital. She received her training at the London Hospital, and served the Colony faithfully and well up to the date of her resignation in 1899. Her services, especially during the plague epidemics of 1894, 1896, 1898, and 1899, were invaluable. In 1896 she contracted plague herself, and although her life was then despaired of she ultimately recovered and was granted a well-earned holiday to recover her health and strength. After a few months' rest in Scotland she volunteered for plague work in India, where she was employed for some months, being in charge of one of the plague hospitals there. In the 1898 epidemic Mrs. Gibbs again contracted the disease. This time, however, it fortunately proved to be a mild attack and she soon recovered. On the resignation of the matron, Miss Eastmond, in 1898, she was appointed in her place, and performed the duties of this office until March, 1899. Since her marriage she has still interested herself in nursing matters, and acted as hon. secretary of the Ladies' Committee, formed only a few months ago, to obtain private Nurses for the community. Her end was very sudden, and the sympathies of the Colony are with her bereaved husband and the motherless little one. The respect and esteem in which she was held was evidenced by the number of mourners who were present at the sad funeral early yesterday morning in the Happy Valley Cemetery. Amongst those present were the Right Rev. Bishop of Victoria and Mrs. Hoare. Sir Thomas Jackson, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., as representing H.E. the Governor, and as a personal tribute to one with whom he had been personally connected and highly respected, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., and Mrs. May, Dr. Atkinson, P.C.M.O., Dr. Thomson, Rev. J. H. France, Hon. W. Chat-ham, and scores of other residents, including many Government officials. The Rev. F. T. Johnson performed the last solemn rites. Mrs. Gibbs was buried in the lovely spot where Sisters Frances and Gertrude rest. The Colony is richer for memories such as those of the deceased lady.

The Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General, has been granted leave of absence for a month. During his absence the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, will be Acting Registrar-General.

A splendid game was witnessed on Friday evening at V.R.C., Kowloon, in the semi-final round of the Water Polo Shield Competition, between 25 Co., E.D., R.A., and R.W.F. (Right). At half-time the scores were equal, viz., two goals each. The R.W.F. finally won by five goals to three.

Mr. E. A. Hewett, who has been agent of the P. & O. Co. at Shanghai for some years, has been appointed to succeed Mr. H. A. Ritchie as superintendent at Hongkong, Mr. Ritchie having been transferred to take charge of the West London branch of the company's business. Mr. Hewett has interested himself considerably in local questions in the northern port, and is at present Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council. There will be ample room for his energy in Hongkong.

Mr. J. McAuliffe, ex-champion light weight boxer of the world, who with his partner Mr. J. Slavin, brother of the well-known Frank Slavin, has been touring in Africa, India, and the Straits, and giving very successful exhibitions of boxing, ball-punching, and club-swinging, are now in Hongkong. At Singapore and Rangoon the Governors attended the show. Mr. McAuliffe intends to appear at the City Hall during his stay here, and as he is by far the best man in the boxing line we have ever had in Hongkong, he and his partner should meet with a good reception.

The return of deaths in the colony during July shows a total for the month of 591, of which 32 were in the European and foreign community (including 12 among the military), and 559 in the Chinese community. Plague was responsible for 180 deaths, 4 among the European and foreign civil community, one in the Army, and 175 among the Chinese. Of the latter deaths, 28 were in Kowloon district, 21 in the Harbour, 20 in No. 5, and 19 each in Nos. 4 and 9 districts. Malarial fever caused 30 deaths, and chest affections 86. The death-rates in the principal registration districts were:—British and foreign civil community, 25.7 per 1,000 per annum; Chinese community, Victoria, Land 26.0, Harbour 3.03; Chinese, whole colony, Land 24.3, Boat 26.4, Land and Boat 24.6; total civil community 24.6.

A startling incident was witnessed on the Praya frontage, opposite the Hongkong Club, on the 19th inst. at about 25 minutes to 6. Some junks were unloading on the Praya, where suddenly a great uproar arose and a Chinaman was observed to be struggling in the water. It was stated at first that he had a stone tied to his leg and that the other men on the junk had adopted this method of settling a difference. Three European policemen and a Sikh were soon on the spot, and the man was with no little difficulty fished up by aid of a bamboo pole, brought round to consciousness, and discovered to have an ugly blow across the face. He was put into a chair, while the three European policemen boarded the junk and proceeded to arrest the crew. Three of these had concealed themselves in the hold and were only got out after the police had followed them into their evidently dirty retreat—judging by the state in which they emerged. Ultimately ten men were arrested and marched up to the police station, secured by their queues. The affair, however, seems to have been an accident after all, as the ten men were discharged last night. No little sensation was caused at the time of the occurrence, both on the Praya itself and in the neighbouring buildings, the Club verandah in particular being crowded.

The French cruiser *Styx* arrived from Canton on the 16th inst.

H.M.S. *Dido* left dock about 2.30 p.m. on the 17th inst.

H.M. cruiser *Brisk* arrived on the 18th inst. from Weihaiwei.

The British transport *Umta* arrived on the 19th inst. from Taku.

The British surveying-ship *Rambler* arrived from the South on the 20th inst.

The French gunboat *Vipers* and the British transport *Glengyle* arrived on the 22nd inst. from Swatow and Calcutta respectively. The British transport *Iinda* left on the 22nd inst. for Taku.



## COMMERCIAL.

## CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd August.—No arrivals.

## SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd August.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.50 to \$8.55	pcd.
do. " 2, White.....	7.90 to 7.95	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.90 to 5.95	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.70 to 5.75	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.35 to 8.40	"
do. " 1, White.....	7.80 to 7.85	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.75 to 5.80	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.55 to 5.60	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.55 to 12.60	"
Shekloong ".....	11.15 to 11.20	"

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd August.—The advance in prices continues, holders being firm. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.60 to 2.65
" Round, Good quality .....	2.70 to 2.75
" Long .....	3.85 to 3.90
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 .....	2.60 to 2.65
" Garden, " No. 1 .....	3.40 to 3.45
" White.....	4.20 to 4.25
" Fine Cargo .....	4.35 to 4.40

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Coptic*, sailed on the 27th July. For San Francisco:—9 cases silkgoods. For Punta Arenas:—5 cases silkgoods. For Panama:—15 cases silkgoods. For New York:—1 case silkgoods, 40 bales raw silk.

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd August.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARNS AND PRICE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 100 bales No. 6 at \$79 to \$80.50, 150 bales No. 8 at \$80 to \$84, 1,550 bales No. 10 at \$86 to \$91.50, 600 bales No. 12 at \$87 to \$91, 600 bales No. 16 at \$97 to \$105, 1,050 bales No. 20 at \$100 to \$109.

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$74.00 to \$111.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PRICE GOODS—	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—8 lbs. ....	2.10 to 2.15
7 lbs. ....	2.20 to 2.30
8.4 lbs. ....	2.70 to 3.30
9 to 10 lbs. ....	3.35 to 4.50
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd. ....	2.35 to 2.60
58 to 60 " ....	3.00 to 3.90
64 to 66 " ....	4.00 to 5.50
Fine.....	5.10 to 7.40
Book-folds.....	4.10 to 6.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.72 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. ....	1.60 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 " ) .....	1.85 to 2.15
6lbs. (32 " ) .....	1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 " ) .....	2.70 to 3.35
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) .....	2.75 to 3.30
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs. ....	4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. ....	1.55 to 5.00
Brocades—Dyed.....	— to —
Chintzes—Assorted.....	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in. ....	0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in. ....	0.20 to 0.22½
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....	0.36 to 2.50
WOOLENS—	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 2.50

	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet.....	6.40 to 10.00
Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } Assorted }	8.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain .....	8.50 to 10.00

	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. ....	4.00 to 18.00
METALS—	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod .....	4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.).....	4.25 to —
Swedish Bar .....	6.25 to —
Small Round Rod .....	4.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in. ....	5.25 to —
Wire 15/25 .....	8.75 to —
Old Wire Rope .....	2.50 to —

Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop .....	7.60 to —
Australian .....	7.50 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. ....	40.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz. ....	39.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz. ....	39.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	42.00 to —
Tin.....	69.25 to —

Tin-Plates .....	7.40 to —
Steel ½ to ½ .....	5.75 to —
New Chops 14/20 oz. ....	— to —
UNDRIES—	per picul
Quicksilver .....	160.00 to —
	per box.
Window Glass .....	5.75 to —
Kerosene Oil.....	2.10 to —

## SHARE REPORTS

HONGKONG, 23rd August.—The business of the past week has been rather more animated than hitherto, and rates generally have shown a firmer tendency.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have steadily improved their position, and after small sales at 374 per cent. to 396 per cent. premium ex div. the market closes firm at \$600, the equivalent of 380 per cent. premium. In future this stock will be quoted at its actual dollar value, not as heretofore. The London rate has improved to £60. 10s. ex dividend. Nationals and Bank of China are unchanged, and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed at \$340, and have further buyers. Cantons have declined to \$175, at which shares are on offer. There is nothing to report in other stocks under this head.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have sold at \$340 to \$345, and have further buyers. China Fires are neglected at \$83.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$34½, and more could probably be disposed of. Indo-Chinas are quiet at \$136 after sales at that figure. China-Manilas have been placed at the improved rate of \$62. Douglasses have declined to \$52 with sellers. Star Ferries continue in request at \$24½ and \$9½ for the old and new shares respectively.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$142, \$141 and \$140½, and more shares under forced sales may probably be had as we close. Luzons continue neglected at \$36.

MINING.—Punjoms have sold and have sellers at \$5½. Jebeus are on offer at \$4½. Raubs have sold and have further sellers at \$12.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been done in fair quantities at \$274 to \$277 ex dividend, and there are further buyers at the latter rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$98, and more shares are wanted. New Amoy Docks continue in request at \$24½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have come into favour again, and sales at \$190, \$191 and \$192 have been effected, the market closing with buyers at the latter rate. Kowloon Lands are wanted at \$30. Hongkong Hotels have been sold at \$129 and \$130 cum dividend, and at \$124 and \$125 ex dividend, and there are further buyers at the higher rate. Orientes are on offer at \$60. Humphreys Estates have sold and are wanted at \$13.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons continue in request at \$10½. Yahoongs have declined to \$12½, and the other Shanghai stocks are on offer at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments are in the market at \$50. Green Island Cements have sold and have sellers at \$21½. Watsons continue on offer at \$16. Electrics continue in request at \$12½ and \$6½ for the old and new shares respectively. Hongkong Ropes are wanted at \$172½. Ices have sold at \$182, and are in further demand. United Asbestos have sold at \$10, and more shares can be placed. Providents have been done at \$9½ and have further buyers. Universal Trading Co.'s are wanted at \$19½ ex dividend. Alhambra Cigars and Philippine Tobacco Trusts are nominal only, and without business.

MEMOS.—The China Sugar Refinery Company, Limited, has declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year ended 30th June

last, payable on the 24th instant. The Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited, invites applications for 58,000 new shares of \$10 each, up to and including the 27th instant, on which date the lists close.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.....	\$125	{ 600, ex div. L'don, £60. 10s., ex div.
China & Japan, ordy.	24	15s.
Do. deferred.	21	25. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares .....	28	\$28.
B. Shares .....	28	\$28.
Foun. Shares.....	21	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.....	21	\$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$20.
China-Borneo Co., Ltd	15	\$38, sellers
China Light & Power } Co., Ltd. ....	20	\$20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.....	10	\$9½, sales & buyers
China Sugar .....	100	\$140½, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.....	\$500	\$1,500, nominal
Philippine Tobacco } Invest. Co., Ltd.)	\$50	\$50, nominal
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 42½, sellers
International .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sellers
Laou Kung Mow .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, sellers
Soychee .....	Tls. 500	Tls. 300, sellers
Yahloong .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 12½.
Hongkong .....	\$100	\$10½, buyers
Dairy Farm .....	88	\$8, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.....	25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement.....	10	\$21½, sales & buyers
H. & C. Bakery .....	50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas .....	210	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric }	10	\$12½, sales & buys.
H. H. L. Tramways }	85	\$8½, buyers
Hk. Steam Water }	\$100	\$275.
boat Co., Ltd. ....	85	\$8, buyers
Hongkong Hotel .....	\$50	\$125, ex div., buys.
Hongkong Ice.....	225	\$182, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.....	50	\$98, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	50	\$172½, buyers
H. & W. Dock .....	50	\$277, ex div., buys.
Insurance—		
Canton .....	\$50	\$175, sellers
China Fire .....	20	\$83, sellers
China Traders' .....	25	\$80, sellers
Hongkong Fire .....	50	\$342½, buyers
North China .....	225	Tls. 175.
Straits .....	20	nominal.
Union .....	50	\$340, sales & buyers
Yangtze .....	50	\$122½, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$192, buyers
Humphreys Estate.....	10	\$13, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	30	\$30, buyers
West Point Building	50	\$50.
Luzon Sugar .....	\$100	\$36, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	50	\$50, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages .....	Fcs. 250	\$325.
Jebeu .....	85	\$4½, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.....	25c.	4 cents
Oliver's Mines, A.....	85	nominal.
Do. B.....	4½	nominal.
Punjom .....	89	\$5½, sales & sellers
Do. Preference.....	81	\$1½.
Raubs .....	18	\$12, sellers
New Amoy Dock .....	88½	\$24½, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	50	\$60, sellers
Powell, Ltd. ....	10	\$10, nominal
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$62, sales
China Mutual Pref.	210	212.
China Ordinary .....	210	212.
Do. ....	25	27.
Douglas Steamship	50	\$52, sellers
H., Canton and M.....	15	\$34½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	210	\$186.
Shell Transport and } Trading Co. ....	21	22. 12a. 6d., sellers
Star Ferry .....	10	{ \$21½, buyers { \$9½, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.....	85	\$1.
United Asbestos .....	34	\$10, sales & buyers
Do. ....	10	\$15.
Universal Trading }	85	\$19½, ex div., buys.
Co., Ltd. ....		
Wanchai Warehouse.....	37½	nominal.
Watkins, Ltd. ....	10	\$10½.
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	10	\$16, sellers

VERNON &amp; SMYTH, Brokers.



SHANGHAI, 14th July (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). **BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Market has been quiet locally. National Banks are still wanted. **INSURANCE.**—Marine. Yangtzes sold at \$120. China Traders are offering; others unchanged. **FIRE.** Chinas changed hands at \$83. **SHIPPING.**—Macao Steamboats sold at \$35 locally. China Mutual S. N. Co., £5 paid up ordinary shares changed hands at £5. 5s. Od. Indo-China S. N. Co. Cash sales took place early in the week at Tls. 102.50 to 102, but shares are now offering at 101 without inducing purchasers. The following settlements were made:—Tls. 103 for 31st inst., \$142 for September, \$143.50 for October, Tls. 107, 107.50 and 108.50 for November, Tls. 108.50 and 108 for December. Shares are on offer for forward purchase. Shell Transport and Trading Co. shares are wanted. **SUGARS.**—Peraks are offering. China Sugar Refining Co. An interim dividend has been declared at 5 per cent. **MINING.**—Raub Mining Co. A small lot of shares changed hands at \$14. Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd. Cash sales were made at Tls. 11.60 to 10.80, closing with sales and buyers at 11.20. The following settlements were made:—11.60 for September, 11.60, 11.20, 11.80 and 11.40 for October, 12.20 and 11.70 for November, 11.80, 12.40, 11.21, 12.20, 11.20 and 11.00 for December. **DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. Shares sold early in the week at Tls. 255 to 260, but several lots placed on the market without response by buyers forced sales at 240 and 237.50; the market closes with further sellers at this figure. The following are the settlements: Tls. 255 (cum new issue) for 31st inst., 267.50 for October; 277.50 and 267.50 for November (cum new issue); 270 and 265 for November (ex new issue); 280 (cum new issue for December). Quotation gives rate "ex new issue," unless otherwise stated. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. shares were placed at Tls. 300 to 295 and are offering. **LANDS.**—Shanghai Lands were placed at Tls. 100 and are offering. **INDUSTRIAL.**—Gas shares sold at Tls. 112 and are wanted. Major Bros. changed hands at Tls. 43 and are in request. In Cotton Mills, Ewos were placed at Tls. 42.50 and Yah Loongs at Tls. 15 and 10; both these cotton stocks are offering, as well as Laou Kung Mows, Soy Chees and Internationals. Ice shares are wanted. Pulp and Paper Mills sold at Tls. 85 and 100. Moutrie & Co. shares were placed at \$55. **TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.**—Taku Tug Boats are wanted. Co-operative Cargo Boat Co. paid a bonus of 10 per cent to contributors of business on 9th inst., as well as an interim dividend of 4 per cent. Shanghai Cargo Boat shares sold at Tls. 132.50 (cum div.) and are offering. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—Waterworks shares sold at Tls. 340 and are in request. Sumatra Tobacco shares were settled at Tls. 45 for 31st inst., but are now on offer at Tls. 42.50 to 40 cash. Lankat Tobacco. The market has been quiet and business is only reported at Tls. 357.50 and 355 for cash and 30th inst. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares are offering at Tls. 100, but are wanted at lower rate. Hall and Holtz shares found buyers at \$35, but later transactions are reported at \$34. Central Stores, Ltd. shares were placed at \$22.50, but are offering at this figure. **MERCURY, LTD.** shares are wanted. Astor House Hotel shares changed hands at \$275. **DEBENTURES.**—Shanghai Land Investment 6 per cent sold at Tls. 103, cum accrued interest. These and other 5.50 per cent. and 6 per cent. debentures are offering.

SHANGHAI, 21st August (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). Business has been quiet in the principal stocks. **SUGARS.**—Peraks are offering. **MINING.**—Raubs are offering. Chinese Engineering and Mining shares have been steady at Tls. 11.00 and 11.20 with sales at this figure and further buyers. Contracts have been made for 31st instant at 11.20, for September at 11.20, for October at 11.40, for December at 11.40 and 11.90. **DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. The opportunity of cheap shares at Tls. 235 brought in buyers, who raised rates to Tls. 245, the market closing with sellers at this figure to 242.50. Settlements were made at Tls. 245 and 240 (both cum new issue) for 31st instant, and at 247.50 for September (ex new issue), 257.50 for November (ex new issue), 255 and 262.50 for December (cum new issue), and 255, 257.50, 260 and 262.50 for December (ex new issue). Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. An interim dividend at Tls. 6.00 is announced for payment on 27th instant. Shares changed hands at Tls. 295 for cash and are offering. Kowloon Wharf shares sold at \$99 locally. **LANDS.**—Shanghai changed hands at Tls. 100 cash and are offering. **INDUSTRIAL.**—Gas shares sold at Tls. 112 and are wanted. Major Bros. shares are in request. In Cotton Mills, Ewos are wanted;

Internationals, Laou Kung Mows and Soy Chees are offering; Yah Loongs sold at Tls. 10 and 12.50. Ice shares were placed at Tls. 32.50 and are offering. Shanghai Pulp and Paper Co., Ltd., shares sold up to Tls. 110, but market dropped to 105 and cheaper shares are reported obtainable. Moutrie & Co. shares are offering. **TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.**—Market is quiet, though Cargo Boats are offering. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—Waterworks shares are wanted. Sumatra Tobacco shares sold at Tls. 40 cash; there are further sellers. Lankat Tobacco Co.—Shareholders are reminded that the new issue of shares in terms of resolutions passed at meeting of 22nd July will be made to those shareholders standing on register on 2nd September next, who must apply and pay for their allotment before 16th September. Shares changed hands at Tls. 350, 347.50, 352.50 and 350 for cash and 31st instant, market closing steady. Settlements were made for November, at Tls. 362.50 and for December, at 372.50. Hall and Holtz shares wanted, in small quantity. Central Stores shares were placed at \$20 and are wanted. **MERCURY, LTD.** shares are wanted. Tsingtau Hotel shares are offering. Telephone shares are offering in a small lot. China Providents sold at \$9.75 locally. Astor House Hotel shares were placed at \$275 for cash. **DEBENTURES.**—There are numerous enquiries for 6 per cent. investments. Waterworks 6 per cent. were placed at Tls. 113, cum accrued interest.

## CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 24th August.

## EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1.11 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	1.11 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1.11 1/4
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1.11 1/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1.11 1/4
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1.11 1/4
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.44
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.47
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.97 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	47 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	144 1/2
Bank, on demand	144 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	144 1/2
Bank, on demand	144 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	6 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	3 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	117
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1/2
ON SAIGON.—On demand	
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.25
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	53.50
BAR SILVER per oz.	26 1/2

## VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—	
Masilia (str.),	Ajaz (str.),
Stentor (str.),	Idomeneus (str.),
Banca (str.),	
FOR LIVERPOOL.—	
Orestes (str.),	
FOR MARSEILLES.—	
Banca (str.),	Oceanien (str.),
FOR BREMEN.—	
Princess Irene (str.),	
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—	
Alexandria (str.),	
Sibiria (str.),	Andalusia (str.),
Arabia (str.),	
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—	
Braemar (str.),	Kaga Maru (str.),
FOR VANCOUVER.—	
Empress of India (str.),	Athenian (str.),
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—	
Nippon Maru (str.),	Peru (str.),
FOR NEW YORK.—	
Heathburn (str.),	Ataka (str.),
L. Schepp, I. P. Chapman,	Manuel Llaguno,
Aragonia (str.),	
FOR SAN DIEGO.—	
Strathgyle (str.),	
FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—	
Indravelli (str.),	
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—	
Eastern (str.),	Taiyuan (str.),
FOR CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.—	
Catherine Apear (str.),	

## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

## ARRIVALS.

August—

- 16, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 17, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 17, Chwnshan, British str., from Saigon.
- 18, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
- 18, Elsa, German str., from Hongay.
- 18, Glenfarg, British str., from London.
- 18, Hans Menzell, German str., from Amoy.
- 18, Brisk, British str., from Weihaiwei.
- 18, Haiching, British trspt., from Calcutta.
- 18, Nankin, British str., from Bombay.
- 18, Progress, German str., from Touron.
- 18, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
- 19, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 19, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 19, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 19, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
- 19, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
- 19, Perla, British str., from Manila.
- 19, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
- 19, Umta, British transport, from Taku.
- 19, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 20, Empress of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
- 20, Hue, French str., from Kwong-chow-wan.
- 20, Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
- 20, Rambler, British surveying-ship from Singapore.
- 20, Macduff, British str., from Moji.
- 20, Ajax, British str., from Liverpool.
- 20, Peleus, British str., from Yokohama.
- 20, Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Chefoo.
- 20, Tryonia, British str., from Shanghai.
- 21, Crown of Arragon, British str., from Foochow.
- 21, Itinda, British transport, from Calcutta.
- 21, Independent, German str., from Chefoo.
- 21, Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.
- 21, Haitan, British str., from Foochow.
- 21, Iltis, German gunboat, from Macao.
- 21, Heathburn, British str., from Yokohama.
- 21, Kawachi Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 21, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 21, M. Jebesen, German str., from Haiphong.
- 21, Rosetta Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
- 21, Trym, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
- 21, Konig Albert, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
- 22, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.
- 22, Hoibao, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 22, Tsurubiko Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
- 22, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 22, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 22, Tingsang, British str., from Hongay.
- 22, Vipere, French gunboat, from Swatow.
- 22, Glengyle, British trspt., from Calcutta.
- 23, Chingwo, British str., from Shanghai.
- 23, Peru, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
- 23, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
- 23, Formosa, British str., from London.
- 23, Rein, Norwegian str., from Cardiff.
- 23, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 23, Geo. Valentine, Fr. bark, from Haiphong.
- 23, Athenian, British str., from Vancouver.
- 24, Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
- 24, Wongkol, German str., from Bangkok.
- 24, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Foochow.
- 24, Anping, British str., from Shanghai.
- 24, Rajah, British transport, from Calcutta.
- 24, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
- 25, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 25, Oceanien, French str., from Shanghai.
- 25, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.
- 25, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 25, Toonan, American str., from Haiphong.
- 25, Alexandria, German str., from Shanghai.
- 25, Pronto, German str., from Manila.
- 25, Phra C. Kiao, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
- 25, Tailoe, German str., from Saigon.

## August— DEPARTURES.

- 17, Parramatta, British str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Hinsang, British str., for Hongay.
- 17, Marie Jebesen, German str., for Saigon.
- 17, Flandria, German str., for Yokohama.
- 17, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
- 17, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 17, Coromandel, British str., for Europe.
- 17, Amara, British str., for Bangkok.
- 17, Arara, British str., for New York.
- 17, Ness, British str., for Moji.
- 17, Orestes, British str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Swatow.
- 17, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 17, Sanuki Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.



17, Toonan, American str., for Haiphong.  
 17, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.  
 18, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.  
 18, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.  
 18, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.  
 18, Pekin, British str., for Kobe.  
 19, Benledi, British str., for Weihaiwei.  
 19, S. V. Langkat, Dut. str., for Pulo Sambo.  
 19, Y. Sontua, American str., for Manila.  
 19, Hansing, Korean str., for Chefoo.  
 19, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for Seattle.  
 19, Pelayo, British str., for Swatow.  
 19, Chiyuen, American str., for Shanghai.  
 19, Leongmoon, German str., for Canton.  
 20, Feiching, British str., for Haiphong.  
 20, China, Austrian str., for Yokohama.  
 20, Hans Menzell, Ger. str., for Samarang.  
 20, Kweiwang, British str., for Tientsin.  
 20, Andalusia, German str., for Yokohama.  
 20, Hansa, German str., for Swatow.  
 20, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.  
 20, Nuentung, German str., for Sydney.  
 21, Thales, British str., for Swatow.  
 21, Umta, British transport, for Calcutta.  
 21, Fushun, British str., for Canton.  
 21, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.  
 21, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.  
 21, Decima, German str., for Singapore.  
 22, Clavering, British str., for Tacoma.  
 22, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.  
 22, Independent, German str., for Canton.  
 22, Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.  
 22, Peleus, British str., for London.  
 22, Glenfarg, British str., for Shanghai.  
 22, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.  
 22, Nankin, British str., for Shanghai.  
 22, Melpomene, Austrian str., for Manila.  
 22, Itinda, British transport, for Taku.  
 22, Haimun, British str., for Amoy.  
 22, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.  
 22, Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., for Canton.  
 22, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.  
 22, Amigo, German str., for Chefoo.  
 22, Wilmington, Amr. cruiser, for Amoy.  
 22, Konig Albert, German str., for Europe.  
 22, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.  
 23, Progress, German str., for Touron.  
 23, Taisang, British str., for Canton.  
 23, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., for London.  
 23, Ajax, British str., for Shanghai.  
 23, Kashing, British str., for Nagasaki.  
 23, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.  
 23, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.  
 23, Chunsang, British str., for Samarang.  
 23, Kasuga Maru, Japanese str., for Sydney.  
 23, Rosetta Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.  
 23, Loongsang, Japanese str., for Manila.  
 23, Heathburn, British str., for Manila.  
 23, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.  
 23, Taisang, British str., for Canton.  
 24, Chingwo, British str., for Manila.  
 24, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.  
 24, Macduff, British str., for Canton.  
 24, M. Jeben, Ger. str., from Haiphong.  
 24, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.  
 24, Perla, British str., for Manila.  
 24, Trym, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.  
 24, Woosung, British str., for Foochow.  
 24, Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.  
 24, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.  
 25, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.  
 25, Chwanshan, British str., for Swatow.  
 25, C. Apear, British str., for Calcutta.  
 25, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.

## PASSENGERS LIST.

## ARRIVED.

Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. Lachlan.  
 Per *Coromandel*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Le Comte de Bréda, Mrs. J. W. Stavers, Messrs. C. Toegesen, H. G. Hill, and S. P. Cantorowitz; for Singapore, Mr. Ali Ben Ahmat; for Bombay, Mrs. Bailey and Major Melville; for London, Mr. J. Clarkson.  
 Per *Parramatta*, from Hongkong, from London, Mrs. Rodgers, Mr. and Miss Doughton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ashman, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pearce and infant, Mr. and Mrs. H. Cameron and infant, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Strike and infant, Messrs. W. Sidney, H. W. Pincher, A. P. Gladwell, W. E. Day, H. Shopland, J. Pearce, H. Morton, F. Jenkins, H. Glasson, A. F. Pearce, and J. J. Dewing; from Port Said, Mr. H. W. Robinson; from Bombay, Mr. Percy Brown; from Singapore, Mr. J. C. Kitzmark; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Child and child, Mr. and Mrs. C.

D. Meares, Mr. and Mrs. D'Arc and child, Messrs. H. W. Robinson, S. Arnold Kelly, J. C. Bosustow, Col. Sergts. C. Miller and W. Rapier, Sergts. F. C. Boness, F. Crudge and O. Scott; from Port Said, Sergt. E. Beckwith; from Singapore, Mr. McBain; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. T. L. Tetley.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Messrs. P. Orchard and R. Gray.

Per *Catherine Apear*, from Calcutta, &c., Messrs. J. Slavin, J. McAuliffe, and J. F. Anderson.

Per *Perla*, from Manila, Mrs. Hardinge, Mrs. Elinore, Mrs. Yosi Sone, Mrs. Kam Sone, Mr. and Mrs. Dederich, Messrs. E. B. Cushing, E. N. Bonine and C. W. Donnelly.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. von Buskirk, Messrs. F. H. Sprang and A. Baechlin; from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Denny, Miss d'Almada, Miss H. T. Mitchell, Messrs. J. M. d'Almada, G. H. Mitchell, A. D. Hook, and A. E. Gibson; from Kobe, Mr. T. H. Tamda; from Nagasaki, Mr. C. J. Lea; from Shanghai, Count Schluftin, Capt. Macard, Mgr. von Rutzstein, Messrs. J. Grant Mackenzie, J. Thebend, F. P. Ball and Wittmus.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Skeffington, Messrs. W. T. Jongw, M. Hirouch, and N. Takano; for Manila, Miss Robertson, Mr. and Master McCullough, Messrs. W. Wallace, C. S. Joscelyn, D. Y. Curran, Y. B. Shelly, L. C. Brankamp, J. M. Crogliston, H. T. Gambell, J. Ishikawa, S. Fukuchi, T. Okumura, and Capt. Y. Tokisawa; for Brisbane, Mr. J. Bannan; for Townsville, Mr. O. Yashimura; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Croudace, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Edgell, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Grey, Capt. D. Spence, and Lieut. Destchkooff.

Per *Loosok*, from Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen and two children and Mr. Maillard.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Capt. Waymouth, Messrs. J. Summer and E. H. Irwine; for Penang, Mr. M. A. Namozie; for Marseilles, Mrs. Olga Laows and child, Mr. and Mrs. Hachman, Mr. and Mrs. H. Takeda, Mrs. T. Tacobi, Dr. T. Takashina, Messrs. M. Abe, K. Yamashita, C. Hida, and K. Sano; for London, Messrs. J. Knox, K. Komon, Lieut.-Comdr. M. Hazama, Messrs. T. Yoshida, T. Noda, T. Suzuki, and N. Yamamoto.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Australia, for Hongkong, Hon. and Mrs. J. Kohn, Comdr. Speyers, Major Brown, Messrs. J. S. Cranston, Beinto Ybead, Vincente Mortinez, M. Fernandez, J. A. Blockmer, J. Beveridge, J. H. E. Thomas, and J. A. Avery; for Shanghai, Major Voak; for Nagasaki, Mrs. B. Brooks and Capt. J. Baxter; for Kobe, Messrs. C. Refardt, U. Tomoka and Y. Takagi; for Yokohama, Mrs. A. Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. A. Vandam, General Groely, Dr. Rayers, Miss L. Yeamans, Messrs. A. Cooper, J. McConnell, J. Robles, W. F. McLoughlin, Pascual Ledesma, and E. C. Walls.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Bremen, &c., Mrs. D. Harvey, Messrs. Y. Jah, H. Berner, Araulls and M. Ratlye.

Per *Konig Albert*, from Yokohama, Mrs. Rothman, Miss Clifford, Miss Banvard, Miss Thomson, Messrs. H. Jessen, E. Siebs, C. Havier, F. H. McGregor, Faird, Hough, J. Martinolish, Silbermann, Finlauf, T. W. Andrews, F. Battagay, Banvard, Frères Antoni, Paul, and Louis.

Per *Glengyle*, from Calcutta, Messrs. Moorhouse, Wallace, Cassidy and Sergt. Bunce.

Per *Formosa*, from London, Mrs. Murray Robertson, Comdr. Carey, R. N., and Mr. A. P. B. McDermott.

Per *Peru*, from San Francisco, Mrs. R. S. MacDougall, Mrs. H. M. Collins, Mrs. C. P. Quelch, Misses L. Wallace, M. E. Dreyer, D. Quelch, Senator A. P. Beveridge, Capt. D. H. Ward, Rev. W. H. Massie, Rev. E. J. Hardy, Messrs. S. H. Ingram, B. Ratigan, W. Walsh, W. F. Ford, A. J. Coffee, P. Barnhardt.

## DEPARTED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. Thomas Williamson; for Bombay, Messrs. C. H. Ebrahim and H. G. de Castro; for Marseilles, Capt. W. C. Nicholson; for London, Messrs. John C. Fielding, R. N., James Wallis, R. N., Lieut. Sydney Robinson, R. N., Sergt. and Mrs. Rush and two children; from Shanghai, for Bombay, Mrs. Bailey and Major Melville; for London, Mr. J. Clarkson.

Per *Parramatta*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Kent, Messrs. L. Pross and E. Englehardt; from Marseilles, for Yokohama, Mr. L. T. Tetley; from London, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Child and child, Mr. and Mrs. Meares, Mr. and Mrs. D'Arc and child, Messrs. S. Arnold Kelly and J. C. Bosustow, Col. Sergts. C. Miller and W. Rapier, Sergts. F. C. Boness, F. Crudge, and O. Scott.

Per *Yamaguchi Maru*, from Hongkong for Bombay, &c., Mrs. U. Matsuo and Mrs. T. Ishikawa, Messrs. G. Hanman, P. Sagar, Thos. Clark and L. B. F. A. Butterwehah.

Per *Diamante*, from Hongkong, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Owen, Dr. and Mrs. L. H. Fales, Messrs. Griffith Owen, C. F. Heisinger, B. C. Gleason, A. Garbar, M. Guion, J. Petra, W. Ballard, J. E. Smith, H. Glasson, Nabu Murasato, A. Demano and child and J. W. Buchanan.

Per *Sanuki Maru*, from Hongkong for Kobe, &c., Mrs. K. Nakano, Major Suochi, Messrs. N. Komori, E. Kondo, A. Nakano, K. Kijoko, N. Fujiye, R. Fujii, A. Hirose, K. Numura, Nagano, N. Makino, A. F. Worthington, Bourman, S. Johnson and T. Oki.

Per *Kamakura Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Mr. W. M. Levensaler.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from Hongkong for London, &c., Fleet Engineer H. Takeda, I. J. N., and Madame H. Takeda, Mrs. Olga Lewis and child, Mrs. T. Tacabe, Mr. and Mrs. Hachmann, Mr. Abe, Secretary for Japanese Legation for Britain, Dr. T. Takashima, Messrs. K. Yamashita, C. Hida, Lieut. Comdr. M. Hajama, Assistant Engineer 1st Class T. Sudsuki, I. J. N., Assistant Naval Constructors 1st Class T. Yoshida and T. Noda, I. J. N., Sub-Lieut. N. Yamamoto, Messrs. M. A. Namasio, K. Sano, K. Komon, J. Knox, D. Esitos, Stepheno, J. E. Cox, Healy, Walker, Wooley.

Per *Konig Albert*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Miss H. Mitchell, Messrs. W. H. Feinden, and G. H. Mitchell; for Genoa, Mrs. Humphreys and 3 children, and Capt. J. Petersen; for London, Mr. H. E. Mackenzie.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Miss Voak, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dederich, Mr. and Mrs. M. Geraud, Mr. and Mrs. V. P. Senna, Messrs. F. P. Riedenauer, B. E. Kelly, D. M. Moses, W. Crnickshank, W. Kolle, C. H. Thomson, M. E. dos Remedios, C. Maillard, W. H. Purcell, M. Girard, Th. O. Vogelgesang; for Kobe, Messrs. J. D. Encarnacao and J. Lahesa; for Yokohama, Mr. Essabhoy.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, from Hongkong for Manila, Mrs. M. Yanagisawa, Mrs. Tanabe, Mrs. R. S. MacDougall, Miss Robertson, Mrs. and Master McCullough, Mr. and Mrs. Shikada, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. von Buskirk, Capt. Y. Takisawa, Senator Beveridge, Messrs. J. Owen Hughes, W. Wallace, C. S. Joscelyn, D. Y. Curran, J. Ishikawa, Y. B. Shelly, L. C. Brankamp, S. Takuchi, J. M. Croughton, T. Okumura, A. F. Gambell, M. Ichikawa, Pedro Reyia, A. C. Baechlin, M. Mortonolich, F. P. Ball, J. Theband, A. J. Coffee, R. J. Radigan, J. H. McGregor, O. A. Hack; for Brisbane, Mr. J. N. Bannam; for Townsville, Mr. O. Yoshimura; for Sydney, Misses Crondace, F. Banvard, and L. Banvard, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Edgill, Mr. and Mrs. Crondace, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Grey, Lieut. Distchkooff, Lieut. Grafoon Schlieffen, Capt. D. Spence, Capt. Marcard, Major Baron von Reitsenstein, Messrs. A. D. Hook, A. E. Gibson, F. H. Sprang, E. A. Banvard, W. Thomas, A. Thompson, W. Horley.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Hongkong for Japan, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Hammond, Misses D. Voak, Yamens, Mr. and Mrs. A. Vandmann, Capt. J. Baxter, Dr. Rogers, General Gauly, Messrs. M. Tomiska, E. C. Walls, G. Takagi, O. Refahrt, A. Cooper, Ledesma, J. Robles, R. Innes, Geo. Williams, T. Grey, R. Yamazaki, E. Shepherd, M. T. Arratoon, R. Matsumoto, J. Sunada, K. Misusani, T. Morita, Laughlin, J. Thomas, J. Anery.

Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Zulauf and child.

Printed and published by ALFRED CUNNINGHAM for the Concerned, at 14, Des Vaux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong.  
 London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.